

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

MON 21 December	Advent feria	8.30am <u>LIVE STREAM ONLY</u>	Mary Gallagher, Thanksgiving intentions
TUES 22 December	Advent feria	8.30am 12.00noon	Stephen St. John Maule, RIP Maria Grimaldi, Anniv
WED 23 December	Advent feria	8.30am <u>LIVE STREAM ONLY</u>	Chris Fisher, Anniv
THUR 24 December	Advent feria	8.30am	For the people of the parish
	CHRISTMAS SEASON Vigil Mass of Christmas	5pm 6.30pm 10.00pm	For the people of the parish For the people of the parish For the people of the parish
FRI 25 December	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</b>	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am	For the people of the parish For the people of the parish For the people of the parish
SAT 26 December	ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr	12.00noon  6pm	Gordon Appleford, Anniv  Daisy Malig, Intention
SUN 27 December	+ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	8am 9.30am  11am 12.30pm	For the people of the parish Deceased members of the Hardwidge, Howe and Southam families, RIP Michael O'Malley & Anna Darcy, Anniv Marie Otu, Intention

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP** is sponsored for the intentions of **McGuire family**

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR December** – We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God through lives of prayer.

### MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD

Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest:	Fr Derek McGuire	<a href="mailto:derekmcguire@rcdow.org.uk">derekmcguire@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎) Opt 3
Assistant Priest:	Fr Joseph Okoro	<a href="mailto:josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk">josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎) Opt 4
Deacon:	Rev Neville Dyckhoff	<a href="mailto:nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk">nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎) Opt 5
Parish Secretary:	Martha Stuart-Berrisford	<a href="mailto:watford@rcdow.org.uk">watford@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎) Opt 2

**Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am till 1pm**

Address: Holy Rood House, Exchange Road, Watford. WD18 0PJ. (01923) 224085

website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/>

**Other Parish Contacts:** Safeguarding Representatives: Andrew Danquah **Important new app:** <https://www.hestia.org/brightsk>

**Hospital Chaplain:** Deacon Anthony 07876 526935 or emailing: [anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk)



Sunday cycle  
Readings Year B  
Weekday readings  
ADVENT  
Psalms week 4

Holy Rood  
Catholic Church, Watford



## Sunday 20th December 2020 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is a time of waiting and it seems that this year we have a deeper sense of this waiting and longing. Most of us have our minds fixed on a longing for an end to this present situation and although there are signs of hope, the reality is that we are not there yet and there seems to be a long way to go. With this situation lots of issues and problems have arisen in all of our households and families. Difficult decisions have had to be made and this is true of our church community too. We have been asked by the Diocese to look at expenditure in the parish and to tighten our belts and try to look at finances in a serious manner. We are doing this but as you know, my time in Watford is coming to an end. Over the past two months we have been looking at ways of saving money in a number of different ways – this is what we are called to – STEWARDSHIP and that is what I have tried to do in these very difficult circumstances. I have tried to follow the example of Pope John XXIII when he was a young secretary that he learned to look after the Ecclesiastical plants—buildings etc.—not horticultural! I will move away from Watford on the 4<sup>th</sup> January and your new Parish Priest – Fr. Gerard O'Brien – will take up residence and care of the parish on the 5<sup>th</sup> January. I know that you will all give him a warm welcome and continue this with your daily/weekly support for him, Fr. Joseph and Deacon Neville.

Today has been chosen as SEA SUNDAY – this year 400,000 seafarers will be facing their hardest Christmas ever – many of them have not seen their families for over a year. The Apostleship of the Sea cannot replace their families but they can help them feel less alone. If you would like to support their efforts at this difficult time you can by going to: [www.stellamaris.org.uk/christmas](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/christmas) or donating £5 by texting SEA to 70460. Envelopes are also at the back of the church for collection.

Our Mass times for Christmas are now on the website. **PLEASE ONLY BOOK ONE MASS** for either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Our numbers are limited and therefore everyone should have a possibility of attending ONE Mass. Thank you for your consideration of others in this regard – this is what Church is.

**IF ANY OF THE CHRISTMAS MASSES SAY FULLY BOOKED, PLEASE BOOK ANOTHER MASS AS THERE ARE SEVERAL AVAILABLE.**

Our Church doors continue to be open at this time for limited periods only according to the Government Regulations.

This week the Church will be open **TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY.** There will be **LIVE STREAM MASS** only on Monday and Wednesday when the church will remain closed.

Monday – **LIVE STREAM ONLY 8.30am**

Tuesday – Mass 8.30 followed by Exposition until 12Noon Mass

Wednesday - **LIVE STREAM ONLY 8.30am**

Thursday – Mass 8.30

Christmas Vigil Masses: 5pm, 6:30pm & 10pm

Friday – Christmas Day Masses: 8am, 9:30am & 11am

Saturday: 12noon & 6pm

Sunday – Masses 8am, 9.30am, 11am & 12.30pm.

Daily Masses will be kept on the YouTube website for the rest of the day so that anyone who has missed Mass live can still participate later. You can access our LIVE STREAM by: going to YouTube website then type in their search engine Holy Rood, scroll down to the picture of the sanctuary and click on that.

**LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES**

You can sign up for Mass through the **EVENT page on the website.**

**This means that everyone thinking of attending MASS MUST REGISTER THEIR NAME—go to our website and then click on EVENTS to find the days and times. ONCE AGAIN THIS DEPENDS ON HAVING ENOUGH CLEANERS FOR THE DIFFERENT TIMES!**

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from you.*

### Build a home for the Lord

*The angel said to Mary "You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end." (Luke 1: 31-33)*

### Pray together daily as a family

*Jesus help us to look at where you are in our daily lives, and then open our hearts to receive you anew.*

**ADVENT** Don't forget the Repository has our Christmas cards, Advent calendars and other Christmas items. Our stock reflects the true message of Christmas!

**CHRISTMAS POSTAGE STAMPS** Please ask for the religious stamps, Madonna & Child, when buying your stamps for Christmas to help promote the true meaning of Christmas.

**DURING THE LAST LOCK DOWN WE WENT THROUGH OUR DATA BASE AND TRIED TO CONTACT EVERYONE BY TELEPHONE.**

**IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE PHONE CALLS THEN WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR DETAILS. PLEASE SUPPLY US WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS.**

### **JOURNEY THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE.**

The Agency for Evangelisation has put together resources which provide a guided celebration of the Christmas Octave, from 25th December to 1st January. Find the links for each day at <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/every-day-is-christmas--a-journey-through-the-christmas-octave-2020/>

**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** have assembled nearly 12,000 packs for the homeless and have distributed them throughout England and Wales. Each Vinnie Pack contains a thermal hat, thermal gloves two pairs of thermal socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, wet wipes, Pavement magazine, pen and information sheet and 5,000 of the packs have a reusable face mask included. The contents of each Vinnie Pack cost around £3.50 and donations to sponsor packs would be most welcome. Donations can be transferred to **SVP Vinnie Packs, a/c 46088237 sort code 60-60-04** or cheques made out to SVP can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ.** Any assistance is really appreciated.

**HOLY ROOD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL- URGENT 2021 RECEPTION ADMISSIONS.** The application window for Reception 2021 is now open and closes on 15th January 2021. We have noticed that we have more 'incomplete' applications at present than we would normally have by this point in the year. If you have a Certificate of Catholic Practice, a Baptism Certificate, or SIF that you have not yet handed in, please ensure that this happens before 15th January. We appreciate that people are limiting journeys/visits at the moment, but don't leave yourself with a last minute rush. If you have any admission queries, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Chandler in the school office

**Thank you for all your contributions and donations to the parish—they provide for the church in these times of need.**

**STANDING ORDER — £6403**

### **FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

Stephen St John-Maule, Gabriel Eke, Vito Priolo, Peggy Connolly, John Sullivan, Jude Ferguson, Asuncion Enriquez, Margaret Murray, Mick McDermott

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Theresa Ann Donoghue, Maria Grimaldi, Chris Fisher, Gordon Appleford, Len & Molly Wilson, Ronald Godinho.