

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH,
THE WORLD, THE PARISH & ONE ANOTHER

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN 10 JAN	+THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD	6.00pm Vigil	For the People of the Parish
		8.00am	Ned and Theresa Ryall Anniv
		9.30am	Stephen St. John Maule RIP
		11.00am	Carmel Dunphy Intentions
		12.30pm	Rocco Marrese RIP
2.15pm	Polish Mass		
MON 11 JAN	Feria	8.30am LIVE STREAM ONLY	Sean Casey, RIP
TUES 12 JAN	Feria	8.30am	The Deceased of Santhanasamy Family
		12 noon	The Deceased of Santhanasamy Family
WED 13 JAN	Feria	8.30am LIVE STREAM ONLY	Holy Souls
THUR 14 JAN	Feria	8.30am	Stephen St John Maule, RIP
		12 noon	Kitty Gregson, Recovery
FRI 15 JAN	Feria	6.00pm	Thérèse Alokpa, RIP
SAT 16 JAN	Feria	11.00am	Zachria Joseph, Anniv.
		6.00pm Vigil	Thérèse Alokpa, RIP
SUN 17 JAN	+2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.00am	For the People of the Parish
		9.30am	Ronald Godinho, Anniv.
		11.00am	Anil Picardo & Elizabeth Ferrao— Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving
		12.30pm	Thérèse Alokpa, RIP

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY- Evangelisation—Human Fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of the other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD

Parish Priest: Fr. Gerard O'Brien gerardobrien@rcdow.org.uk ☎ Opt 3)
 Assistant Priest:: Fr Joseph Okoro josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk (☎ Opt 4)
 Deacon: Rev. Neville Dyckhoff nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk (☎ Opt 5)
 Parish Secretary: Martha Stuart-Berrisford watford@rcdow.org.uk (☎ Opt 2)

Address: Holy Rood House, Exchange Road, Watford. WD18 0PJ. (01923) 224085
 Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/> Charity No: 233699

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

Hospital Chaplain: Deacon Anthony 07876 526935 or emailing: anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk

**Sunday 10th January 2021
The Baptism of the Lord**

Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday readings
YR1
Divine Office
Psalms week 1



'After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'
Mt. 3:16-17

Fr Gerard writes-

Just a few words of introduction. You can ask me for further information in time. I was ordained on 16 January 2010 in my home parish of St Paul's, Wood Green, North London. Like Fr Joseph, I studied at Allen Hall Seminary. My parents came from Ireland; Galway and Tipperary. I am fortunate to have a large and supportive family. Prior to ordination, I worked in public administration for 20 years, initially in the civil service, but mainly in the NHS. My parish appointments have been Kings Cross/Clerkenwell, Brook Green, Welwyn Garden City and Westminster Cathedral. I have spent the last four years as a chaplain for Imperial College NHS Trust and St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney. I am delighted to return to parish ministry but saddened that the experience is very different because of the pandemic. However, more than ever, we need God, the Church and each other. There is a new mission awaiting all of us. We have to go back to the drawing board. I said on the feast of the Epiphany, that God could end the pandemic in the blink of an eye, if we only asked. But sadly, a year on, as a world, we are not asking. Therefore, the responsibility for us Christians is even greater. We have to pray more than ever for an end to the pandemic and for all those affected in anyway. We will come though it and we will be a stronger Church. Our Lady, Queen of the Universe, pray for us.

**Holy Rood
Catholic Church, Watford**



WELCOME FR GERARD: On behalf of all our parishioners we would like to welcome Fr Gerard, our new Parish Priest, to Holy Rood. We wish him a fruitful, happy and fulfilling ministry here in Holy Rood Parish. Fr Joseph and Deacon Neville.

REGISTER TO ATTEND MASS 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 at the top left corner of the page to find the days and times. **ONCE AGAIN THIS DEPENDS ON HAVING ENOUGH CLEANERS FOR THE DIFFERENT TIMES!**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT There will be opportunity to adore our Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on:
Tuesday 9am—11:45am
Friday 6:30pm—8pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Friday: from 6:30pm

Saturday: from 11am and 5-5:30pm or you can contact Fr Gerard or Fr Joseph to arrange for your confessions to be heard at other times.

PARISH DIARIES 2021 A small number are still available at the entrance priced just 50p

ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL? In case you are admitted to hospital, please tell the staff to register you as Roman Catholic on your patient records and you would like the Roman Catholic Chaplain to visit you.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED
Salvatore Mistretta, John Vicary,
Warren Edward Styles,
Stephen St. John Maule
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED
The Deceased of Santhanasamy Family,
Zachria Joseph, Ronald Godinho,
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord

FOODBANK Thank you to all who have left food in the box at the back of the church. Fr. Joseph continue to hand in the food donated during this time of pandemic.

SPONSORING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP: *If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a particular intention, the recommended donation is £10 for the week. You can book it with the clergy. Your sponsorship helps towards the costs of sanctuary candles. Thank you.*

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
is sponsored this week
In THANKSGIVING for Fr Derek McGuire

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS
Christmas Collection £ 2492.05
Collections up to 20th December 2020
£ 2031.17
Collection on 27th December 2020
£ 489.44

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH CAFOD AS A VOLUNTEER. CAFOD Westminster is looking for volunteers, who care about global poverty, to help us inspire others to act here, so we can tackle poverty and injustice across the developing world. Are you a people-person who would relish involving and encouraging others? Are you a good communicator who would enjoy speaking about our work in a Parish or School? Please get in touch with us on westminster@cafod.org.uk or 020 8449-6970 to find out more and book a place on one of our CAFOD online information sessions

DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

The current position and role of our churches in this phase of the pandemic

We are aware that questions are being asked as to why churches remain open during this National Lockdown. We are also aware that many local authorities are calling for places of worship to close. We wish to respond to these concerns.

Churches are allowed to open for prayer and communal worship at this time according to the provision of the most recent national legislation and Government guidance. This decision is based on two factors: the recognition that our churches are safe, and that the service they offer is essential.

The safety of our churches has been affirmed by Public Health England in its current advice to the Government. This is publicly recognised to be the result of the great efforts made by many people in the implementation of procedures mandated by PHE and thereby establishing the necessary conditions within churches for their safe use.

Our churches are making a significant contribution to the personal resilience and inner strength of people which is much needed at this time. Many are hubs from which essential support is offered especially to those most in need, extending well beyond the faith communities which use them. This includes the regular provision of food; the care of the homeless; and being a place of peace and reflection (which is safe) for many whose living conditions are very limited. This will become more appreciated as the programme of vaccination increases. The vital link between prayer and action is important to maintain this service.

At this phase of the pandemic, which is causing alarm and fear, our churches will exercise their role with increased diligence to ensure continuing safety and service.

Our clergy will ensure that all are aware that there is no duty or responsibility to come to church and communicate to all there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. They will review, in each local area, the provision offered by the church in order to ensure that the highest standards of safety are maintained. This will include a review of the role of stewards, the provision of additional social distancing within the church, a review of cleansing routines, and consideration of the personal circumstances of the priest(s) and people. On this basis there will be a local evaluation and decision about the possible reduction in the times of opening and the frequency of communal worship.

In conclusion we recognise the higher levels of fear and anxiety which the new strain of the virus has prompted and we have a very proper awareness of the care which must be exercised by everyone, under the guidance of PHE health professionals.

We recognise, too, that isolation is having a profound detrimental effect on people and that the role of churches in easing that isolation in ways which are safe and supportive has been recognised as a positive and beneficial contribution to the common good.

We pray for the dedicated work of the NHS and continue to provide spiritual support to staff and patients through the network of chaplains working both in the hospitals and the community.

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Bishop John Sherrington
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster
8th January 2021