

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

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

SUN 31 JAN	+4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	6.00pm Vigil	Beryl Keating, Anniv.
		8.00am	Anne Smyth—Thanksgiving.
		9.30am	For the People of the Parish.
		11.00am	Warren Edward Styles, RIP.
		12.30pm	Marie Otu's Family Intention
		2:15pm	Polish Mass
MON 01 FEB	Feria	8.30am LIVE STREAM ONLY	Stephen St John Maule, RIP
TUES 02 FEB	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD— Candlemas	8.30am	Stephen St John Maule, RIP
		12 noon	Ascent Group, Intention
WED 03 FEB	Ss Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury	8.30am LIVE STREAM ONLY	Richard Carroll, RIP
			True and Fair Elections in Togo
THURS 04 FEB	Feria	8:30am	
		12 Noon	Maria Grimaldi, RIP
FRI 05 FEB	St Agatha, <i>Virgin & Martyr</i>	6pm	Patrick Ouro-Gnao 60th Birthday, &
SAT 06 FEB	St Miki and <i>Companions, Martyrs</i>	11.00am	Mary Coelho, Anniv., Johnnie Coelho, RIP
		6:00pm Vigil	Sean Smyth, Anniv.
SUN 07 FEB	+5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8am	For the People of the Parish.
		9.30am	Alice Gubatanga—Intention
		11am	Irish Fisher, Recovery.
		12.30pm	Marie Otu's Family Intention
		2:15pm	Polish Mass

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY- Violence against Women: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD

Charity No: 233699

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/>

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

Sunday 31st January 2021
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday readings
YR 1
Psalms week 4



TODAY'S MASS

*"Christ taught with authority"
Christ is the great Prophet for all
times. He speaks to us today with
the same authority as he did in his
own native village in Capernaum.
When we free ourselves from worry-
ing about the wrong things, we
become freer to serve the Lord who
will himself put his own words into
our mouths. In this way we become
his prophets.*

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

In this reading Moses assures the people that God will raise up from among their descendants "a prophet like Moses." This prophet will speak what God commands. He will be a true spokesman for God. Like the people of Israel, we too must be concerned about who can teach us the true will of God. We must realise that often there are false prophets around us, advising us badly. We should turn to Christ and the Church for true teaching of what is God's will for us, what is right and wrong, just and unjust.

Second Reading: First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 7:32-35

The community in Corinth, was, it seems, always worrying about something. They wrote to Paul with their questions, and Paul tried to teach and reassure them. In this letter he suggests that people look at their lives to see how they can devote themselves to God. Whatever our future state in life as married or unmarried people, we should begin now to give the Lord the most important place in our lives. If we do, everything else will fall into place.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

In this reading Jesus teaches and acts with authority. In this first miracle recorded by Mark, Jesus shows his power over the forces of evil. Even the evil spirit gives witness to Jesus, recognizing him as "the Holy One of God" and submitting to his commands.

Holy Rood
Catholic Church, Watford



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2021 is on 31st January. Events of 2020 make this year's RJS particularly important. To assist in your activities on the day and throughout 2021 please see in the link below a Reflection, a Message and a Prayer. Further resources will be added to the website in the days before 31st January including videos made by (1) The Youth of the Zimbabwean Chaplaincy (2) Our Lady of Fatima, White City Parish.

With prayers and best wishes.

+Paul McAleenan

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justice-sunday-2021/>

Retiring collection can be left in the orange bucket at the back as you come into or leave the church or through the presbytery letterbox—all in an envelope and mark it RJS 2021. THANK YOU!

Year of St Joseph is being celebrated universally this year. St Joseph has moved to the sanctuary. More information next week...

Bench Cleaning/Covid-19—Can we please ask you to bring some antibacterial wipes with you when attending church & wipe the area you have used before leaving the church. This will really help our dedicated team of stewards/cleaners and ensure we can keep open. Thank you.

Covid-19 – Update on latest safety issues. The situation continues to be very serious and the journey ahead is still long. We continue to take all precautions necessary to prevent the spread of the disease. Because of this, the risk assessment has been updated by Fr Joseph, the Diocesan Health & Safety Officer and myself. In order to remain open for worship, the biggest change at the moment is to block off every other bench, (this is now common practice in other churches,) reducing the allocated seating to 75.

We will continue to use the green ticks and red crosses system and have allocated family areas. If you are attending Mass on your own or a couple, find yourself a space, maintaining the 2 metre distance rule. If you are a family or bubble, please keep to the family allocated areas first. However, if these areas are full you may use a bench with red crosses but still keeping to 2 metre rule if someone is already on the bench. This applies mainly to the longer benches. Like everything, it

is a matter of trial and error, working together and being guided by the stewards, Fr Joseph and myself and of course government advice. The good news is that we all have one thing in common; we want to come to church and celebrate Mass. It is a privilege that we are allowed to do this and long may this last.

Receiving Holy Communion

Things have got a little confusing lately. So for the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses –

Those sitting on the right hand side approach the priest/deacon/minister up the centre aisle and leave straightaway by the main entrance. Votive candles may still be lit before Mass begins.

Those on the left hand side approach the priest/deacon/minister by the left side aisle by the Holy Spirit Chapel/Repository and leave by the side door and gate. (Please note the outside gate is open for Masses but at times gets jammed and appear locked.)

There is no rush, so please approach row by row giving space to the person in front.

We all need to feel safe and to make others feel safe. By following this update, we are showing the diocesan officials and government, that we are serious about safety and remaining open. Any concerns, please don't hesitate to let Fr Joseph or myself and let's see how things work out over the next couple of weekends. Thank you.
Fr Gerard.

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD—Candlemas on Tuesday 2nd February at 8:30am and 12noon.

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 of Masses. **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.

Right To Life - As Catholics we need to be aware of all issues that threaten human life. It is increasingly difficult to keep up with many concerns. The **Right To Life** website helps us in this cause, enabling us to contact our MP's. A current topic is the introduction of assisted suicide. Please check out www.righttolife.org.uk regularly.

St Vincent de Paul – REQUEST FOR FURNITURE

The SVP seek a set of bunk beds and carpet rugs for a family in need. Please contact Paul on 07887726061 if you can help. Thank you.

FOODBANK Thank you to all who have left food in the box at the back of the church. The clergy will continue to hand in the food donated during this time of pandemic to the Watford Foodbank.

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. 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

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation> The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.

Children's Mental Health Week - Please visit:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Are you seeking an outstanding education in a Catholic Primary school in the parish for your child? We would love to welcome you at St. Anthony's where, due to families moving away, we still have a small number of places available for this school year in Year 1. Please contact the Acting Headteacher, Mrs Elaine Harrold, on 01923 226987 as soon as possible. Information about the school can be found on our website www.stanthonysherts.sch.uk

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 for
Augustus Joachim, RIP

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

Offertory collection from Dec. 28, 2020 up to Jan. 30, 2021—£998.88.

**STANDING ORDER
Dec. 2020—£6892.00.**

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Luigi Anastasia, Tony Horabin,
Andre Richard,
Patrick Joseph (Sonny) Maguire,
Salvatore Mistretta, John Vicary,

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED

Mary Coelho, Sean Smyth.
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord