

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

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<b>SUN</b> <b>14 MAR</b>	<b>+4TH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	6.00pm Vigil	Nora and Edward Briody, Anniv
		8.00am	For the People.
		9.30am	Joseph Patrick Maguire, RIP
	<b>(LAETARE SUNDAY)</b>	11.00am	Sonnie Maguire, RIP.
		12.30pm	Anna Loughran, RIP.
		2:15pm	Polish Mass
<b>MON</b> <b>15 MAR</b>	Lent feria	8.30am LIVE STREAM ONLY	Edith Abraham, RIP
<b>TUES</b> <b>16 MAR</b>	Lent feria	8.30am	Jenny Kavanagh, RIP
		12 noon	Rory White, Anniv.
<b>WED</b> <b>17 MAR</b>	St Patrick, Bishop and Patron of Ireland	12 noon	John Casey, RIP
<b>THUR</b> <b>18 MAR</b>	Lent feria	8.30am	Sonnie Maguire, RIP
		12 noon	Marie Otu's Family—Intention.
		7.00pm	Polish Mass
<b>FRI</b> <b>19 MAR</b>	<b>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of</b>	<b>12noon</b>	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS followed by Mass.</b>
		6pm	Mary Roach, RIP.
		<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>
<b>SAT</b> <b>20 MAR</b>	Lent feria	11.00am	Private Intention
		6:00pm Vigil	For the People
<b>SUN</b> <b>21 MAR</b>	<b>+5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	8am	André Dufour, RIP.
		9.30am	George Prim, RIP
		11am	C. Y. Varghese Panicker, Anniv.
		12.30pm	Frances Turner—Intention
		2:15pm	Polish Mass

**HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR MARCH**— Sacrament of Reconciliation: let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

### MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD

Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest:	Fr Gerard O'Brien	<a href="mailto:gerardobrien@rcdow.org.uk">gerardobrien@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)

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 14th March 2021**  
**4th Sunday of Lent**  
**LAETARE SUNDAY**

Sunday cycle  
Readings  
Year B  
Weekday  
Readings  
Year 1  
Psalms  
Week 4



**Holy Communion** – The Eucharist is the important moment in our lives when we are together around the altar, praying and praising God. We get involved in what Christ did for us on the Cross and at the Resurrection. Receiving Jesus in Holy Communion is a moment when we are enabled to recognise who and what he is; this most precious moment when he is close to us. It is at this moment we must give ourselves to him, as he gives himself to us, when he speaks to us and encourages us. He gives us the strength, for instance, if we have a problem,

in the family, at work or in life choices. At this point we can accept, from the hands of God, any cross to bear or difficulty to face. At this point we can say 'yes Lord, with your help.' The moment of receiving Our Lord is very personal. It should not be rushed or invaded with distraction. There should be a short time when we are alone with Our Lord and at this moment deep within ourselves, we begin to form a true Christian community, which is, of course, what a parish should be. Moments of silence and stillness after Communion are important. These moments before the final prayer and blessing, and when we remain in church, alone with Our Lord.

**The Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion for the first time.** We are now in a position to offer dates for our parish children preparing to receive these sacraments. We are so blessed to be able to celebrate in this time of pandemic. Many parishes will have to wait until the autumn. Lockdown and Covid 19 guidelines will still apply and numbers limited per family / bubble. But as we have been deprived of so much over the past year, we can now really begin to value the importance of belonging to the Church, a parish, the Mass and the Sacraments. A new mission awaits us and we are all part of it. There is a lot of work to do in the future to build up the Church and our parish. However, if with have Christ at the centre of our lives, and we are a 'Eucharist centred' parish, we will be given the strength to do God's work. And if the media and news this week has taught us anything, our world remains in torment, when God is put out of the picture.

**Holy Rood**  
**Catholic Church, Watford**

**Happy**  
**Mothering**  
**Sunday**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** —Fridays in Lent at 12noon and after the 6pm Mass at 6:30pm, in place of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK ON THE EVENTS PAGE ONLINE TO ATTEND**



**DURING Lent**—the feel of the church changes. **We refrain from saying the Alleluia** and the vestments the clergy wear for the Holy Mass are coloured purple. **We also refrain from**

**bringing flowers into church.** The flower fast ensures that the impact of our Easter decorations will be all the greater.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH**—There will be Mass at 12 noon with the congregation. Register online to attend. Limited amount of St Patrick's Day and Mothers' Day Cards for sale in the sacristy or office - £1.

**FEAST OF ST JOSEPH—FRIDAY 19TH MARCH**—There will be Mass after the 12noon Stations of the Cross and at 6pm. Register online to attend.

**LENTEN ALMS GIVING** – These exceptional times are tough for all, in so many ways, including financial. If you are able to offer almsgiving may I suggest this year to look at the Church In Need, <https://acnuk.org> – Virtual Sunday Lunch 21st March 1pm next week; CAFOD, <https://cafod.org.uk/> & Cardinal's Appeal <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/cardinals-appeal>. Envelopes will be available throughout Lent. Don't worry if you are struggling financially; prayer is more powerful.

**REGISTER TO ATTEND MASS**—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.

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

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**—Friday: from 6:30pm; Saturday: from 11:30am and 5-5:30pm. Or

you can contact Fr Gerard or Fr Joseph to arrange for your confessions to be heard at other times.

**SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**  
**Palm Sunday—beginning of Holy Week-28 March**  
**Easter Sunday - 4 April.**

**Bench Cleaning/Covid-19**—Can we please ask you to bring some antibacterial/disinfectant wipes with you when attending church & wipe the area you have used before leaving the church. Thank You.

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR EASTER**—Regular and new church cleaners needed for Easter clean. **Sat 27 March at 11.30.** Please contact Fr Gerard. This is a vital church ministry to serve God.

**FLOWERS FOR EASTER**—To decorate the sanctuary; we won't need as many this year. If you want to make an offering please use the yellow bucket in the church or post envelope through the front door.

**BAPTISMS**—Please contact Rev Deacon Neville via email [nevilledychkhoff@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:nevilledychkhoff@rcdow.org.uk) who will guide you through the procedure. The next preparation course, for parents who have not completed the course in the last two years, is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June from 2 to 4 pm. Booking is essential. In the meantime, please continue preparing with daily family prayer.

**SPECIAL NEEDS CATECHESIS**—If there are any parishioners with special needs who have not yet received First Holy Communion or Sacrament of Confirmation please contact Fr Gerard.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**—There is no in-house office support at this time. Can all requests for Masses, certificates, school forms, repository etc. be made via email. Telephone requests are best on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. If you have complete details of requests written down these may be handed to priests after Mass or posted through front door and will be actioned asap. Many thanks.

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE BOX**—We now have the boxes of planned giving envelopes for use beginning on Sunday 11th April for those parishioners still using the envelopes for their Sunday collections. Please collect yours from the Clergy after Mass or arrange for a suitable time to do so, as we can't leave them at the back of the Church because of GDPR.

**BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE**—Join Mauro Iannicelli for an online study of the Old and New Testaments. There is no charge for this course. An 8-session course on Wednesdays, starting on Wed 7th April, 2021 at 7pm UK time. For more Information and registration please go to: [www.comeandsee.org](http://www.comeandsee.org)

**YOUNG CARITAS—'LET US DREAM' LENTEN RETREAT** This retreat is for young people aged 18-35. Sessions will be held via Zoom between 18.30 and 19.45, fortnightly throughout Lent. Please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-caritas-let-us-dream-lenten-retreat-tickets-138923194013> to register for this retreat.

**FOODBANK**—351.98.94KG worth of food donated to the Watford Foodbank so far this year. Thank you .

**ALTERNATIVES BABY BOXES** are short of toiletries (talc, soap, cream/Vaseline, cotton wool, bath wash). If you can help, there is a box at the back of the church for donations. Thank you.

**TURNING YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION** The St Vincent de Paul Society wish to recruit more members to serve people in need in the deanery. A little time can make a significant difference. To find out more, join an information session on Zoom on **Mon 15 March at 6.30pm.** Zoom links from Brendan at [PresidentA22@svp.org.uk](mailto:PresidentA22@svp.org.uk) or call Siobhàn on 07929 490090.

### **PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH—**

**Dear St Joseph accept the offering I make to you. Be my father, protector and guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me purity of heart and a love for the spiritual life and let all my actions be directed to the greater glory of God. Amen**

**St Joseph ... pray for us.**

### **Catechism Corner**

**Sacraments are Christ's gifts to his Church and it is her duty to administer them and to protect them from misuse. Jesus entrusted his words and signs to the apostles who were to hand them on. He did not hand them on to an anonymous crowd. Sacraments exist for the Church and through the Church. They are for the Church, because the Body of Christ, which is the Church, is established, nourished and perfected through the sacraments. They exist through the Church, because the sacraments are the power of Christ's Body, for example in confession, where Christ forgives sins through the priest.**

**Thank you for all your contributions and donations to the parish—they provide for the church in these times of need.**  
**Offertory collection from Jan. 30, up to Feb 27, 2021—£1,266.38**  
**STANDING ORDER**  
**Jan 2021—£7,076.00**

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**  
is sponsored this week for

Neil Dennehy's Intention

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

Noel Hollywood, George Prim,  
Jerome Dunleavy, Pantaleon Blanco,

### **ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED**

Nora and Edward Briody, Rory White,  
C. Y. Varghese Panicker,  
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord