

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

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| SUN 21 MAR | +5TH SUNDAY OF LENT | 6.00pm Vigil | For the People |
| | | 8.00am | André Dufour, RIP. |
| | | 9.30am | George Prim, RIP |
| | | 11.00am | C. Y. Varghese Panicker, Anniv. |
| | | 12.30pm | Frances Turner—Intention |
| | | 2:15pm | Polish Mass |
| MON 22 MAR | Lent feria | 8.30am LIVE STREAM ONLY | Paddy Keane, RIP |
| TUES 23 MAR | Lent feria | 8.30am | Mariette and Peter—Thanksgiving |
| | | 12 noon | Marie Otu's Family—Intention |
| WED 24 MAR | Lent feria | 8.30am LIVE STREAM ONLY | Felicity and Pablo Peralta—Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving |
| THUR 25 MAR | THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD | 8.30am | John Rellis, Anniv. |
| | | 12 noon | Sonnie Maguire, RIP. |
| | | 7.00pm | Polish Mass |
| FRI 26 MAR | Lent feria | 12noon | STATIONS OF THE CROSS. |
| | | 6pm | Kate Curtin, RIP. |
| | | 6:30pm | STATIONS OF THE CROSS |
| SAT 27 MAR | Lent feria | 11.00am | Scaria Joseph, Anniv. |
| SUN 28 MAR | +PALM SUNDAY | 6:00pm Vigil | Pedeo Lorenzo Malig, RIP |
| | | 8am | Vic Ramboanga, Jr. —Thanksgiving. |
| | | 9.30am | For the People |
| | | 11am | Maria Jose Costa-Santos Santasiero—Intention. |
| | | 12.30pm | Manuel Javier Sr., RIP |
| | | 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

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 cycle

Readings

Year B

Weekday

Readings

Year 1

Psalms

Week 1

**Holy Rood
Catholic Church, Watford**

**Sunday 21st March 2021
5th Sunday of Lent**

WORLD DOWN'S SYNDROME DAY is celebrated today. People with Down syndrome have an inherent right to be accepted and included as valued and equal members of the community. We pray especially for the current attempts in Northern Ireland to protect babies with Down's Syndrome from abortion, that elected representatives will pursue the protection of rights for all people with disabilities and that babies with Down's syndrome are loved and protected equally. Please check the website for ways to support some of the most vulnerable in society. <https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/>

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. Most parents have now contacted me and arrangements are well under way to celebrate two sacraments - Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. In fact, some of our children have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week end. Congratulations.** We are so blessed to be able to celebrate in this time of pandemic. Many parishes are not able. Lockdown and Covid 19 guidelines will still apply and numbers limited per family/bubble. We have been deprived of so much over the past year. Now we can begin, afresh 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. But, 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.

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.

HOLY WEEK BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY 28TH MARCH — PALM SUNDAY

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 hand corner of the page to find the days and times of Masses.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT—on: Tuesdays: 9am—11:45am.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION—Fridays: from 6:30pm; Saturdays: 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:
Thursday 1st April: Mass of the Lord's Supper-8pm
Friday 2nd April: Celebration of the Lord's Passion-12:30pm and 3:30pm

Meditations and Stations of the Cross-7:30pm
Saturday 3rd April: The EASTER VIGIL-8pm
Sunday 4th April: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection-8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm.

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 at the church or post envelope through the presbytery door.

BAPTISMS—Please contact Rev Deacon Neville via email neville@dychkhoff@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 6th June from 2 to 4pm. 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.

DO YOU USE THE WEEKLY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES? If so, please collect your new box of envelopes from the sacristy 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

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.

ENTERPRISING CATHOLICS—Enterprising Catholics is an organisation offering start-up advice and mentoring for Catholics considering setting up new enterprises (be they businesses, professional, social enterprises, or charities). It connects Catholics with other Catholics getting started ('mentees') or who have already founded such enterprises and want to share their experiences ('mentors'). If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor or mentee, please email: volunteer@enterprisingcatholics.org or visit: www.enterprisingcatholics.org

FOODBANK—444.24KG 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.

SVP – SUDAN—The SVP are looking for a volunteer to correspond with one of our overseas conferences in Sudan that we regularly support. All this will require is the occasional email about life at Holy Rood and about what it is like to live in Watford/England. Suitable for a young person with parental supervision. For more details please contact Paul Montgomery / 07887 726061.

REMEMBER THE CLOCK SPRINGS FORWARD NEXT SUNDAY 28TH MARCH.

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

Catechism Corner - The Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation - Christ's love is shown in the fact that he seeks the lost and heals the sick. That is why he gave us the sacraments of healing and restoration in which we are freed from sin and strengthened in our physical and spiritual weakness. Jesus himself instituted the Sacrament of Penance when he showed himself to the Apostles on Easter day and commanded on them – "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven, if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." As our parish children begin to make their First Confession, I invite their parents to receive the Sacrament and indeed all parishioners who are able to get to church. Never more than now, we need Gods healing.

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
Feb. 2021—£7,591.00

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
is sponsored this week for
Avrille Bailey's Intention

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY
Noel Hollywood, George Prim,
Jerome Dunleavy, Pantaleon Blanco,

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED

John Rellis, Scaria Joseph
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord