



SUNDAY 18TH APRIL 2021 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

SUN 18 APRIL	+3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER	6.00pm Vigil	Elizabeth Ahenda– Special Intention
		8.00am	For the people of the parish
		9.30am	Sonnie Maguire, RIP
		11.00am	Martin Kazadi, RIP
		12.30pm	Theresa Cheyny-Lile, RIP
		2:15pm	Polish Mass
MON 19 APRIL	St Alphege, Bishop & Martyr	8:30am LIVESTREAMED ONLY	Maureen Keogh, RIP
TUES 20 APRIL	Easter feria	12 noon	Fr. Derek's family
WED 21 APRIL	Easter feria	NO MASS	NO MASS
THUR 22 APRIL	Easter feria	12 noon	Fr Joseph's family
FRI 23 APRIL	ST GEORGE, Martyr, Patron of England	6:00pm	Frank Jones Recovery
SAT 24 APRIL	Ss Erkenwald and Mellitus, Bishops	11.00am	Margaret Baker, RIP
		6.00pm	Conrad Basnayake, RIP
SUN 25 APRIL	+4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am	For the people of the parish
		9.30am	Sonnie Maguire, RIP
		11am	Elizabeth Ahenda, Thanksgiving
		12.30pm	Fr Derek & family intentions
		2:15pm	Polish Mass

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR APRIL– Fundamental Human Rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorship, authoritarian regimes and even democracies in crisis.

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

OFFICE HOURS: MON, TUE, WED, 10.30am TILL 1.30pm.

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

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

Other Parish Contacts: Safeguarding Representatives: Aitana Mateo –

watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk and Emma Daniels – watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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 3

Holy Rood
Catholic Church, Watford

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray and reflect on the subject of priesthood and vocations to the priesthood.

The late Cardinal Basil Hume reminded us that Jesus Christ is the Priest, the Teacher and the Shepherd. To have said that, is already to have indicated what are the priorities for every bishop and priest. The main duty of a priest is to stand at the altar to enable the people to share in the greatest of all events, the Sacrifice of the Mass. We recall how this great act of worship cannot happen without a priest, who is never more truly himself, than when he stands at the altar, presiding over the Eucharistic celebration. Priests are called to be teachers, to open up the Word of God and shepherds to care for the flock. Priests are called to guide the people of God and bring the gospel to an ever-increasing secular world that does not know God, has given up on him or simply does not recognise him; no easy task.

Good Shepherd Sunday is always a very reflective time for priests, and indeed for Fr Joseph and I. It is not any easy path. We don't have a say. It is not a career path. If God calls, He expects a response. Lives are turned upside down. Careers, homes, family, earthly plans are put to one side. There are sacrifices, but that applies to most people and not necessarily a bad thing. But the privilege of the invitation, with all the ups and the down of the office, is beyond describing, And, as it is God's plan, to use a modern phrase, all the resources are provided, but in this case, we are talking of the Holy Spirit.

Next week-end, I am delighted to welcome Seminarian Francis Thomas, from Allen Hall Seminary, who will share with us his vocation journey story at all Masses. Continued Easter blessings. Fr Gerard.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Dear Jesus, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests. Give them deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly lives. In loneliness, comfort them, in sorrows, strengthen them, in frustrations, point out to him that it is through suffering that the soul is purified. O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, comfort them, be their joy and strength, and especially help him to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. Amen.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 18 of whom are for our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also for our Diocese. Last year two men who studied at Allen Hall and one who studied in Rome were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets/envelopes are available. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT— On Friday at 6:30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION— On Fridays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 11:30am & 5pm – 5:30pm. *Or you can contact Fr Gerard or Fr Joseph to arrange for your confessions to be heard at other times.*

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.

[You can access our LIVESTREAMED MASS by going to YouTube website. And in the search space type Holy Rood Watford livestream and click on the picture with 'LIVE' on it.](#)

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

BAPTISMS—Please contact Rev Deacon Neville via email 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 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.

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. The 2020/21 envelopes you have would have run on Sunday 4th April 2021.

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

FOODBANK—498.74KG 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.

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.

Our faith in the resurrection of Jesus is not in a theory, myth, dream or a fairy tale but rather a singular and unrepeatable historical event. Christ's resurrection was a real event, which was historically verified. We can also say with certainty that the resurrection of Jesus is more sure than all human knowledge because it is founded on God's word and God does not lie. Jesus of Nazareth was taken down from the cross and then buried, but victoriously left the tomb. We believe that this moment opened up for each one of us the new creation, the hope of a new risen and glorified life beyond the grave, the life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

OLD CHURCH CHAIRS— For those who had requested chairs please contact the office to arrange collection. If you hadn't requested chairs and would like to now, please contact the office on watford@rcdow.org.uk. We have a short time and any left over will be sold.



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 do so at the Repository at the back of the church. sponsorship helps towards the costs of sanctuary candles. Thank you.*

Catechism Corner

What happens in Holy Orders? The man who is ordained, receives a gift of the Holy Spirit that gives him a sacred authority, that is conferred upon him by Christ through the bishop. Being a priest does not just mean assuming an office or a ministry. Through Holy Orders, a priest receives as a gift, a definitive power and a mission for his brothers and sisters in the faith. A Catholic priest who administers the sacraments, acts not on the basis of his own power or moral perfection, but rather "in persona Christi" - in the person of Christ. Through his ordination, the transforming, healing, saving power of Christ, is grafted onto him. The distinguishing characteristic of every authentic priest is humble astonishment at his own vocation.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
is sponsored this week for
Anil Picardo, Intentions

Thank you for all your contributions and donations to the parish—they provide for the church in these times of need.
STANDING ORDER
Mar. 2021—£7371.00

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Francesca Serra, Noel Hollywood,
George Prim, Jerome Dunleavy,

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord