

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

SUN 9 MAY	+6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	6.00pm Vigil 8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 12.30pm 2:15pm	Peter Household, Int For the people of the parish Patrick Curtin, RIP Thomas Moriarty, Anniv Souls in Purgatory Polish Mass
MON 10 MAY	Easter feria	8.30am LIVESTREAM ONLY	Mary Cussen, RIP
TUES 11 MAY	Easter feria	8.30am 12.00noon	Gloria Tsui, RIP No Mass, Deanery meeting
WED 12 MAY	Easter feria	8.30am LIVESTREAM ONLY	Angie Allen, Intentions
	+ THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	7.00pm Vigil	Ross Fitzgerald, RIP
THUR 13 MAY	+ THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	8.30am 12.00noon 7.00pm	Pat McDermot & Paddy McMahon, RIP Norma Staunton, RIP Polish Mass
FRI 14 MAY	ST MATTHIAS, Apostle	6:00pm	Michal & Carmela Bajak, Anniv
SAT 15 MAY	Easter feria	11.00am 6.00pm	In honour of Our Lady & St Dymphna Sonn timer Maguire, RIP
SUN 16 MAY	+7th SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am 9.30am 11am 12.30pm 2:15pm	Pro Populo (For the people of the parish) Sr. Maria Fleonora Blasi, RIP Celine Scaria, Anniv Dora Cleary, RIP Polish Mass

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR MAY– The World of Finance–Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

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 Rectory, 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 9TH MAY 2021 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE MONTH OF MARY AND MAY DEVOTION

Sunday cycle

Readings

Year B

Weekday

Readings

Year 1

Psalms

Week 2

Holy Rood
Catholic Church, Watford

In the catholic world, the month of May sees an increase in devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. This tradition dates back to the 18th century, when a poor child was inspired on a particular day to gather with fellow children around the statue of Mary, before which a lamp was burning; as was the custom in Rome at the time. At the feet of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they sang the litany in her honour. How moving and beautiful these fresh voices would have been to listen to!

They repeated the visit the next day. At this time, more little children joined this fold of devotees. Then followed their mothers on the third day. Many more from different walks of life, with different burdens of heart were inspired too, to make devotional trips to the statue of Mary. The result was that many more Marian groups were formed. Troubled souls found solace in her and as it gained popularity, this devotion to Mary was promoted as a public and solemn act of reparation.

As Pope Paul VI writes: "In the month of May, both in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians are raised to Mary. It is also the month in which from (God's) throne descend upon us the most generous and abundant gifts of the Divine Mercy."

No one is closer to the Heart of Jesus as Mary his Mother. It is for this reason, that as her adopted children, we often go to Jesus through her, whom God honoured to be the Mother of his Divine Son. With Mary as the Mother of our homes, let us in this month rekindle our time of family prayer, gathering around the statue of our Blessed Mother in our homes with our candles lit, as did the little children centuries ago. Let us bring to her all our worries, our needs and the needs of our world in this time of pandemic and countries where there has been unrest and wars as we pray the rosary daily. We can be sure that if we go to her in faith, we can find solace in moments of affliction, reparations for our sins and the bestowal of the abundant gifts of God's divine mercy.

Fr Joseph

HOLY HOUR IN HONOUR OF OUR BLESSED LADY.

A Catholic tradition is to give extra honour to Our Lady in the months of May and October. On Sunday 16 May, 4-5pm we will have a special holy hour, Rosary, prayer, scripture and music in honour of our Lady. Please set aside this hour in this most difficult of years as the world still suffers under the effects of the pandemic. It would be nice to resume the recitation of the rosary after the 12noon Mass. Please let Fr Joseph or Fr Gerard know if you can help lead this.

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.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND— thank you so much for your generosity. Envelopes will be available for a few weeks more to support this vital fund. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests and seminarians. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

CHURCH FLOWERS— gifts of flowers are most welcome now until Advent and especially for Our Ladies Chapel in this month of May. Also flower arrangers needed throughout the year. Please contact office if you can help.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT— Tuesday 9am—11.30am and Friday at 6:30pm— 7.30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION— On Fridays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 11:30am & 5pm – 5:30pm. Or contact Fr Gerard or Fr Joseph to arrange another time..

BAPTISMS—Please contact Rev Deacon Neville via email nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk who will guide you through the procedure.

HOUSEBOUND— Please contact the parish office so that the clergy can make contact.

ALTERNATIVES BABY BOXES are short of toiletries (talc, soap, cream/Vaseline, cotton wool, bath wash). 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.

Act now and stop disability abortion up to birth in Northern Ireland. IT ONLY TAKES 30 SECONDS. Act now and stop disability abortion up to birth in NI www.righttolife.org.uk/NldisabilityConsultation.

Earlier this year the Northern Ireland Assembly voted on the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill and it passed Second Stage by 48 votes to 12. The Northern Ireland Health Committee is now undertaking a consultation on the Bill and is seeking submissions from the public. It is important that we all, as Christians, submit to the consultation in support of the Bill to clearly show that there is widespread support for this important change. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/NldisabilityCon Paper letters available from back of Church or office.

VACCINE WEBINAR- A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organized for the Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021 from 10am to 11.30am and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on COVID-19 vaccination. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This programme has helped 6,000 couples who were experiencing difficulties in their marriage in the past year. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the programme commencing with a 'Virtual weekend on ... 1st-4th July 2021. Call or text +44 788 7296983 or + 44 797 3380443 - or Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CARDS— First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards and gifts are available as well as other repository items. Please contact the parish office.

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

Loose plate collection- £779.66

**STANDING ORDER
April 2021—£7174.00**

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. Please contact the office .*

Catechism Corner

The Ascension of Jesus into heaven completes the Easter mysteries of Jesus' life, passion, death and resurrection. The final step before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. "Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is now seated at God's right hand." Maybe we feel like the Apostles did, standing there, looking up, wondering what just happened. Why did Jesus go? Where did he go? There are two things to remember about this mystery. Jesus' ascension into heaven is the goal for each one of us. Firstly, He goes before us, and we are to follow Him there and secondly, that Jesus will come back. When that day comes, we must be ready. He has asked us to be his faithful disciples, living in a vital friendship with him. This is not magic. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit, whom each of us receives in baptism and confirmation and a lived relationship with God in prayer. Jesus expects us to be open, available and ready to cooperate with him in the mission he calls us to.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP is sponsored this week for Ned McLoughlin, Anniv.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Adelina Curtis, Bridget Whytock, Francesca Serra, Noel Hollywood, George Prim, Jerome Dunleavy.

ANNIVERSARIES

Michal & Carmela Bajak, Thomas Moriarty.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord