

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

SUN 13 June	+11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	6.00pm Vigil 8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 12.30pm 2:15pm	Michael Barry, RIP People of the Parish Victor Daniel, RIP Pacino Garcia, Annv. Adelina Kertesz, RIP Polish Mass
MON 14 June	feria	8.30am	Cynthia Beardsworth, RIP
TUES 15 JUNE	feria	8.30am 12noon	Chris O'Brien & family , Intentions Leo D'Arcy, Anniv
WED 16 JUNE	feria	8.30am	Mary Thomas, Anniv
THUR 17 JUNE	feria	8.30am 12noon	Theresa Hughes, Recovery Francis Burke, Anniv
FRI 18 JUNE	feria	6:00pm	Abhishek Roy, RIP
SAT 19 JUNE	feria	11.00am 6.00pm	Roy & D'Souza families, Thanksgiving Berthrand Okoro, Anniv
SUN 20 JUNE	+12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8am 9.30am 11am 12.30pm 2:15pm	Special Intention Anne & William Clancy, Intention For the people of the Parish Philomena Carberry, 1st Anniv. Polish Mass

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR JUNE– The Beauty of Marriage- Let us pray for all people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

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 13TH JUNE 2021 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from Bishop John Sherrington.

Sunday cycle

Readings

Year B

Weekday

Readings

Year 1

Psalms

Week 3

Holy Rood
Catholic Church, Watford

I am writing to inform you about the **Day for Life** which is to be held during the weekend of 19th/20th June 2021. This day, inaugurated by St. John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages through the annual collection. This assists prolife organisations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach. These funds are distributed by the Department of Social Justice of the Bishops' Conference.

The fragility of life and the reality of death has been brought into sharp focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19. Yet in the face of such suffering and death, we have also witnessed the extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying. We too have each made sacrifices for the greater good during this pandemic. These acts of heroic love are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life.

Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalisation of 'assisted suicide' in our country. It is not a question of 'if' this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when?' There is now a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on so-called 'Assisted Dying' and it is only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons.

This year's theme for 'Day for Life' focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. The online resources are produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.

'Day for Life' adds an authenticity to our witness to the dignity of life and this is enabled by the generosity of people in supporting our work. In 2020, we were unable to hold our annual 'Day for Life' collection due to the pandemic, our funds are very much depleted and the threats to life have never been greater. 'Day for Life' is a simple practical response which pushes back against 'the use and throwaway logic' often at the heart of a culture which seeks to abandon its elderly, sick and dying when 'they no longer serve our interests.' I know that it is difficult to take another second collection at this time, but the funds are important to support charities and projects which protect the good of life. The Day for Life website is <https://www.dayforlife.org/>. Thank you. With every good wish, in prayer. Bishop John.

BOOKINGS FOR MASS

From now on, there is **no need** to book for weekday and Saturday AM Masses. However, please continue to book for Sunday vigil Mass and Sunday Masses. Some are not booking. Please help us out by booking online or contacting the office during office hours. 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.

COVID 19. As we carefully move forward, there are some changes in the way we do things. Guidance comes from the Bishops and government. We eagerly await new advice from government on 14 & 21 June. However, we must continue to be responsible, protecting ourselves and those we encounter - the common good. As Christians we are well aware of this. To this end we can gradually make some changes. From now, there is no need to book for weekday Masses or submit contact details on entering church. The QR code may be used. Stewards are not needed for weekday Masses. **Masks and hand cleansing must continue.** Percy Road door will be opened at the weekends. Please use Market Street and Percy Road doors to enter and exit church. The church can now remain open in the day for private prayer. This has been a wonderful tradition in this parish. Hopefully by next weekend, bench cleaning will happen once a day. A fogger disinfecting machine has been purchased, which will be kind to our new benches. (A few volunteers needed to operate this.) **The plastic will soon be removed and then we will stop using cleaning wipes on our new benches, which will damage the varnish.** Numbers remain limited to 90 in the church for the time being. Parish hall activities will continue to be restricted until the Autumn. **And most important, prayer for an end to the pandemic and for all those still suffering.**

The following Masses/ liturgy only, will now be livestreamed.

Sunday Masses - 9.30am & 12.30pm.

Tuesday Masses - 8.30am and 12 noon, to include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in between.

Friday Mass, 6pm including Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 7.30pm. And any special services as required.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT— Tuesday 9am-11.30am & Friday 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.

THE MONTH OF JUNE IS DEDICATED TO THE SACRED HEART. The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday 11 June. In addition to the liturgical celebration, many devotional exercises are connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Of all devotions, devotion to the Sacred Heart was, and remains, one of the most widespread and popular in the Church. Understood in the light of the Scriptures, the term "Sacred Heart of Jesus" denotes the entire mystery of Christ. The "Sacred Heart" is Christ, the Word Incarnate, Saviour, intrinsically containing, in the Spirit, an infinite divine-human love for the Father and for his brothers and sisters. **On Sunday 13th June we will have a Holy Hour in honour of the Sacred Heart, 3.30-4.30pm. All are welcome. Booking not necessary.**

MINISTRIES AND PLANNING AHEAD. Can all those who were part of the following ministries and think they can help again in the future, please email Martha, parish secretary, with complete and up-to-date contact details and the ministry you may be able to help with and usual Mass attended - Church cleaners, Altar servers, volunteers for Altar linen and Albs, welcomers, readers, catechists, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, etc. This exercise is also vital in assisting our safeguarding team who are updating all DBS checks.

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

CATHOLIC FAMILY RETREAT DAY—May be a good way to ease back into parish life, post pandemic.

The retreat will be led by Fr Matt Blake, a Carmelite priest and renowned speaker and authority on Carmelite spirituality. Sunday 27 June, Pinner. He will explore how we can apply Carmelite spirituality, a trusted path to get closer to God and deepen our experience of the Divine Mystery, in a day to day basis. For more information: <https://www.pulse-retreats.com/catholic-family-retreat> [fbclid=IwAR0q00iHoOhvF5NQDZywpo8vKko2Gh9SdRO_fCulBz6yMRL0hE_CHzLWZA](https://www.facebook.com/01923224085)

CHURCH KNEELERS – Please be very careful with the new kneelers. We need many years use out of them. Please do not walk on them and always fold them up after use, to protect them and to help with the church cleaning.

BAPTISM COURSE. Sat. 4th July 2021 at 2-5pm in the parish hall. Please contact Deacon Neville on **01923224085** or email nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk

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.

RIGHT TO LIFE. Please check this website regularly www.righttolife.org.uk Offering support, that we may help to protect human life, created by God, from conception to natural death. We are duty bound to do this by the very fact that we are baptised Christians. Continue to pray for all those affected in anyway. The repercussions/pain goes on for many years or even a lifetime.

Catechism Corner

You shall not have strange gods before me. This commandment forbids us to adore other gods and pagan deities or to worship an earthly idol or to devote ourselves to some earthly god - money, success, careers. We must not be superstitious, i.e. adhere to obscure, magic, occult or New Age practices. We must not get involved in fortune telling or spiritualism. Instead we have to believe and trust in God's power and providence.

FROM 7TH JUNE, YOU CAN NOW ATTEND MASS IN PERSON ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS. MASS TIME: 8:30AM

Thank you for all donations.
Loose plate collection
STANDING ORDER
May 2021—£7241.00

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
is sponsored this week for
Jai Guya-Persaud, RIP

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Jai Guyapersaud, Minnie Fernandez,
James Brennan, Adelina Kertesz,

ANNIVERSARIES

Pacino Garcia, Leo D'Arcy, Mary Thomas,
Francis Burke, Berthrand Okoro.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord