

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<b>SUN</b> 20 June	<b>+12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	6.00pm Vigil 8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 12.30pm 2:15pm	Berthrand Okoro, Anniv Special Intention Anne & William Clancy, Intention For the people of the Parish Philomena Carberry, 1st Anniv. Polish Mass
<b>MON</b> 21 June	St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious	8.30am	Fabian & Janice Adams, Thanksgiving
<b>TUES</b> 22 JUNE	SS JOHN FISHER , Bishop and THOMAS MORE,	8.30am 12noon	Teresa Kyeyune, RIP Ray Attwood & Nancy Power, Anniv
<b>WED</b> 23 JUNE	feria	8.30am	Sr. Rosario & Community, Intentions
<b>THUR</b> 24 JUNE	<b>THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST</b>	8.30am 12noon	Bobby John Pulparambil, RIP Fr Joseph, Thanksgiving
<b>FRI</b> 25 JUNE	feria	6:00pm	Soul of Sheela Daniel, RIP
<b>SAT</b> 26 JUNE	feria	11.00am 6.00pm	For the 2021 Confirmandi Berthrand Okoro, RIP
<b>SUN</b> 27 JUNE	<b>+13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8am 9.30am 11am 12.30pm 2:15pm	Joseph Joseph, Anniv. Shaji & Family, Intentions For the people of the Parish Francis Gavin, RIP 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	<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)

**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](mailto:watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) and Emma Daniels – [watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**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 20TH JUNE 2021 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Message from Bishop John Sherrington.

I am writing to inform you about the **Day for Life** which is to be held during the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> 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 pro-life 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.

**Sunday cycle**  
**Readings**  
*Year B*

**Weekday**  
**Readings**  
*Year 1*

**Psalms**  
*Week 4*

Holy Rood  
Catholic Church, Watford

**Day for Life Collection** - Will take place this week- end and next. Difficult times, so if you cannot donate, please pray for the cause.

**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 on- line 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. However, we must continue to be responsible, protecting ourselves and those we encounter for 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. Bench cleaning will happen once a day. A fogger disinfecting machine has been purchased, which will be kind to our new benches. (Please may we have few volunteers to help operate this.) **The plastic has been removed so please 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.

**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=IwAR0q00iHoOhvF5NQDZywpo8vKko2Gh9S](https://www.facebook.com/retreats) [dRO\\_fCulBz6yMRL0hE\\_CHzLWZA](https://www.dro.co.uk)

**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](mailto:nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk)

**FOOD BANK –** To date since 1 January, a very generous 612.5kg has been donated .

**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.*

**DISABLED ACCESS –** If you need to use the side door in Percy Road or use a mobility scooter please contact Fr Gerard.

**HELP NEEDED.** Anyone with **DIY skills** and to keep **Parish Centre garden** tidied and watered. Also help needed to look attend to the flowers during the week. Please contact Fr Gerard.

**CAR PARK ACCESS CARDS -** We need to update our records. Please contact Martha in office hours if you have one. Please also note, all cars parked at own risk.

**MASS INTENTIONS –** occasionally some dates have to be moved to another date. Please supply a contact number when booking a Mass.

**LIFE ISSUE.** During the Covid crisis, provision was made by Government for more DIY abortions i.e. abortion pills sent by post to be taken at home. The consequences of this have been shocking with serious medical complications. The attempt to introduce nationwide buffer zones by Rupa Huq (Labour MP for Ealing Central) so that peaceful pro-life vigils near abortion clinics can be kept well away. A number of women have changed their minds because of a vigil. It is hoped that Holy Rood will have its own pro-life group which is prepared to get involved e.g. by writing to the local MP Dean Russell. This won't take up too up much time, will make a difference and even save lives. This work is best done together. If interested, please ring Gerrard McMahan on 07960-221448 or email [gerrard.mcmahan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gerrard.mcmahan@yahoo.co.uk) or contact Fr Gerard.

**Catechism Corner**

*Thou shall not kill. What sorts of attacks on human life are forbidden by this 5th commandment? Murder and acting as an accomplice are forbidden. Killing unarmed civilians during a war, the disabled, the sick ,the dying, the unborn child, suicide and euthanasia are also forbidden. People often try to get around this with seemingly humane arguments. Euthanasia and abortion are not humane solutions. Of course, in the case of suicide there may be diminished responsibility. Whilst not changing the teaching, a pastoral approach is needed.*

**Thank you for all donations.  
STANDING ORDER  
May 2021—£7241.00**

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**  
is sponsored this week for  
Fred Maguire, RIP

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY**  
  
Jai Guyapersaud, Minnie Fernandez,  
James Brennan, Adelina Kertesz,  
  
**ANNIVERSARIES**  
  
Berthrand Okoro, Philomena Carberry,  
Ray Attwood, Nancy Power, Fred Maguire.  
  
**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**