

# Holy Rood Catholic Church

Holy Rood Rectory, Exchange Road, Watford,  
Hertfordshire. WD18 0PJ

**Tel:** 01923 224 085

**Parish Email:** [watford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:watford@rcdow.org.uk)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday 9:30am-1pm  
& 1:30-3:30pm. **Thursday Office closed**

**Office Location:** Percy Road, WD18 0QA

**Parish Priest:** Fr Gerard O'Brien

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Tim Mangatal

**Deacon:** Rev Neville Dyckhoff  
[nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk) (☎Opt 2)

**Parish Administrator:** Annette Rahilly

**Parish Bookkeeper:** Jacqueline Faria 01923 224085

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Aitana Mateo  
[watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Emma Daniels [watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Watford Hospital Chaplaincy:** 01923 244366

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford](http://www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford)

**Web & Streaming:** [parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford)

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**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

19 November 2023

**Our Planned Giving Drive has begun** We are a great parish. Holy Mass, the Eucharist, prayer and devotion, at the heart. This is what Church and mission is about. We are not a club or a day centre. We are here today, thanks to the generosity of those who went before us. We recall the generosity of Stephen Taprell Holland who paid for the church. We owe so much to him and all who have supported this parish over the years. So, we ask - What legacy will we be handing on to those who will follow us? What is our vision, hopes or dreams for Holy Rood? Ideally, to keep this church and parish open and up and running. Churches have closed in the diocese and across the country. In the next few years more churches may close or be clustered with another church or 2. Sadly 2 priests have recently died, which means two parishes in Borehamwood and one in West London have no priest at the moment. A priest from Hemel is ill and won't be able to return to active ministry. This is a snapshot of the situation across the country. We must not get complacent and presume this church will always be open. Please God it will be, but most likely it will be clustered with another. This will impact on what we can and cannot do. Part of our vision should be to continue to keep this church open every day. We hear about the importance of outreach, churches working together and Ecumenical measures. Well, we do this every day, simply by opening the doors to anyone who wants to come in for a prayer, to light a candle, to sit in silence or quietly shelter from the cold. Many will remember the pain when the churches were closed during lockdown. As priests, we are asked to catechise our parishioners in sacramental preparation, to baptise, to marry couples, to celebrate funerals and to bury the dead of our loved ones. We also counsel and support many who come to the door; broken, in pain, carrying heavy burdens. They come because they see

the church as a safe place, or a final resort. One homeless guy liked to sleep on the presbytery door step because he felt safe being next to the church. In the offices, we are expected to run a business. So much administration, governance, legislation, financial accountability, health & safety, building issues, policies and procedures. This list goes on. All of the above doesn't just happen. It has to be resourced; priests, staff, finance, volunteers. As a parish, we already have a culture of joyful giving but it is important that we regularly evaluate. We do not receive funding from state, Vatican or diocese. We are reliant on our offertory collections to cover all running costs. 33% of our offertory collection and any rent goes to Central Services at Westminster. Let us focus on our vision. Why are we here? Why do we come to church? Do we want to be part of this parish in the future? Do we want this parish and church to remain open and functional in the future? Is a parish church really necessary? A Planned Giving Drive is a chance to learn about parish finances, and a better way of giving; Gift Aid and Standing Orders. It is an invitation to all to reflect and renew their commitment of time, talents and treasure to the parish. Please consider the following: How is God calling me to use the blessings and gifts He has entrusted to me? Am I using my gifts of time, talent and financial blessings responsibly? How can I use them to support my parish? As you entered Mass today you will have been handed a newsletter titled 'Our Parish, Our Responsibility.' Please take home and read carefully and prayerfully. Thank you for all that you do for this parish. These are difficult financial times. But life is always financially challenging. The most important thing at this moment is not to worry or feel pressured. God will guide each one of us in the right direction. What we can't do, is nothing.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### Sunday 19 November

33<sup>rd</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

8am	Holy Souls
9.30am	Marie O'Brien 1 <sup>st</sup> anniv.
11am	Julia & Bernard Bristoll RIP (wedding anniv.)
12.30pm	Holy Souls

### Monday 20 November

Feria

8.30am	Frank McGuigan RIP anniv.
12noon	Rocco Perretta RIP

### Tuesday 21 November

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.30am	Mario Savaglio RIP anniv.
12noon	Ninetta D'urso RIP 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniv.

### Wednesday 22 November

St Cecilia

12noon	Amelia Gabriel Birthday Int.
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### Thursday 23 November

Feria

12noon	Deceased members of Perri and Savaglio families
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### Friday 24 November

St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest

6pm	Holy Souls
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### Saturday 25 November

Feria

11am	Holy Souls
6pm	Khurshid Mehmood Gill RIP anniv.

### Sunday 26 November

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe

8am	Pedro Nkemdirim Birthday Int.
9.30am	Okoye Soluchi RIP 1year memorial
11am	Melita Carvalho anniv.
12.30pm	People of the Parish

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Mariya Private Int.

#### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Please note change this week: Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday 6.30pm-7pm  
Saturday 11.30am-12noon & 5pm-5.30pm

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK by request

#### BAPTISMS

Rev. Deacon Neville - 01923 224085 (Opt 2)

ALL BOOKINGS VIA PARISH OFFICE

*"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament." (St Padre Pio)*

**The Santa Marta Group** established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and slavery. An 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities.' meeting will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November, parish hall of Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew Catholic Church, 16, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS, 7pm- 9pm. Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent anti-slavery Commissioner and currently chief advisor to the Santa Marta Group will lead the meeting. All welcome to learn more about human trafficking and modern slavery.

#### Parish office closed Thursday 24 November

**St Anthony's School** SVP Mini Vinnies will be visiting Holy Rood on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary for a 12 noon Mass, followed by carols in the parish centre & a sandwich lunch, provided by the SVP. If you would like to attend the lunch, **please RSVP the Parish office** by Tuesday 5 December in order we can cater for the appropriate numbers. Please come along and support this worthwhile event.

**SVP Young Adults' Retreat Weekend & Holy Island Appeal for Volunteers to Help with the Youth Camps.** Further details on notice board at the back of church and/or contact Paul Montgomery on [paul.montgomery@ntlworld.com](mailto:paul.montgomery@ntlworld.com) / 07887 726061.

**Ascent/Life Ascending Group.** Craft Afternoon Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 12.30pm in the Parish Centre. Visit to Poplars Nurseries for Shopping and Lunch on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December. Places are limited. Finally, a Festive Lunch, the Moon Under Water, Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, after 12 noon Mass. Names & deposit. again, contact Winnie Brady 01923 334998.

**Holy Rood Catholic Primary School 2024 Reception Admissions** now open. Closing date 15 January 2024. Next Parent Tour on Wednesday 10 January 2024, at our recently Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' school. Please visit website for more information and details of supplementary information needed to complete your application. If you have any Reception application queries, please contact Miss Emma Chandler, on 01923 223785.

[www.holyroodcatholicprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.holyroodcatholicprimaryschool.co.uk)