

Holy Rood Catholic Church

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

Tel: 01923 224 085

Parish Email: watford@rcdow.org.uk

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

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 (☎Opt 2)

Parish Administrator: Annette Rahilly

Parish Bookkeeper: Jacqueline Faria

Safeguarding Representatives: Aitana Mateo
watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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Watford Hospital Chaplaincy: 01923 244366

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford

Web & Streaming: parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford

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Second Sunday of Advent

10 December 2023

All of history has been preparing for the coming of the Messiah. After the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the children of God have been awaiting a Saviour. The prophets and kings of Israel foretold His coming. The chosen people of God prayed for Him in the hardships of oppression and the captivity in Babylon. God's Anointed One would come to free them from the bonds of slavery.

While the priest Zechariah served in the Lord's temple, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and said:

"Do not be afraid Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And, you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward their children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."

Thus, John the Baptist was the last and greatest of all the prophets and our redemption was now at hand. Six months later, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, in the town of Nazareth and announced she would be the Mother of God; that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and carry within her the Word of God. Gabriel told her that her cousin Elizabeth was also having a baby. Upon her arrival to Elizabeth's house, John leaped in his mother's womb when he sensed the presence of the Messiah within

Mary. This was the first time John proclaimed Jesus as The Anointed One. John the Baptist would later say: "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*", those very words would then echo throughout the world by every priest of every age. Come Lord Jesus!

Planned Giving Drive Thankyou to all who supported the PGD. Don't worry if you have been away as there is still time to support the parish by offering your time, talents and treasure and **all for the greater glory of God**. There are forms at the back of the church so please complete before you leave today and hand back to the priests. It is important that everyone completes a new form.

Some people have mentioned that they have standing orders direct with the Diocese, Central Services and can they change this to go direct to our parish. Yes, this is possible. Please let office know. And remember we already pay 33% of our offering and any rent to central services.

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School 2024
Reception Admissions now open. Closing date 15 January 2024. Next Parent Tour is Monday 8 January 2024 at 9.15am. 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 the school office

Mass time change on Tuesday 12 December at 8am

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 10 December

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am People of the Parish
9.30am Clarke-Gonsalves families Thanksgiving
11am Patrick Bourke RIP anniv.
12.30pm Pauline Coleman RIP anniv.

Monday 11 December

Advent feria

No 8.30am Mass

12noon Nancy McLaughlin RIP

Tuesday 12 December

Advent feria

8am Anna Teresa Lawson RIP

No 12noon Mass

Wednesday 13 December

No Mass – Church closed

Thursday 14 December

St John of the Cross

12noon Ted Brady RIP

Friday 15 December

Advent feria

7.15am Sir Jude Onuoha Ezenwa RIP
6pm Departed, living and future generations
of Paulson Cabral families

Saturday 16 December

Advent feria

11am Mary & Bill Devlin RIP
6pm Patrick Malone RIP 1st anniv.

Sunday 17 December

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am Frank McGuigan & Duffy family
9.30am Ninetta D’urso RIP
11am Hilda Guya-Persaud anniv.
12.30pm People of the Parish

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Mariya Private Int.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
& BENEDICTION**

Not on Tues 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

Catechism Corner When one receives Holy Communion standing, one is asked to make a specific act of adoration before receiving the Sacred Host, a simple bow of the head. While waiting for the person in front of you to receive, recollect yourself for a moment. If receiving the Sacred Host on the tongue, after saying Amen” (not thank you) the communicant should open the mouth wide and extend the tongue far enough so that the Sacred Host may be placed upon it without danger of falling. Please note that it is important to extend the tongue, not just open the mouth. Another option is receiving in the hand. Approach the minister, extend the hands in the middle of the chest. A throne is formed to receive the Sacred Host. The response of “Amen” is given to the proclamation “The Body of Christ,” and the Host is received. The individual should then step to the side and receive the Sacred Host carefully and reverently. If unable to receive the host on the hand safely and respectfully, please receive on the tongue. It is wrong to consume the Host walking away. Remember “**Who**” you are receiving. It is very important that all understand that one does not have the right to receive Holy Communion as one pleases. One may only receive in the manner dictated by Church Law. Only those practicing Catholics who are in the state of grace may receive Holy Communion. Those who are not in the state of grace must first be reconciled to God and the Church by means of the Sacrament of Confession before presenting themselves for Holy Communion.

Christmas Masses

Please note in your diaries. Christmas Eve is a Sunday and we are obliged to attend Holy Mass. Christmas Day is Monday and again, we are obliged to attend a Christmas Mass.

Fridays in Advent

7.15am & 6pm

Christmas Eve

Usual Sunday morning Masses plus
6pm & Carols form 9.30pm then 10pm

Christmas Day

8am, 9.30 and 11am

Ascent/Life Ascending Group A Festive Lunch, at Moon Under Water, Thursday 14th December, after 12 noon Mass. For more info contact Winnie Brady 01923 334998.