

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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First Sunday of Advent

3 December 2023

Advent begins this weekend and is from the Latin 'advenire', which means "to come toward, a season of arrival, as we come nearer to Christ in our hearts. A season in which we refocus our lives, seeing how we can best work with God's plan for our salvation. A season in the Church's life intended to renew the experience of waiting, and longing, for the Messiah. Though Christ has already come into the world, the Church invites us to renew our desire and open the door of our life to the Lord. Advent is an expectant, waiting, hopeful preparation for that second coming of the Lord. How do we prepare in Advent? "Be on your guard. Stay awake. Because you never know when the time will come," Jesus tells us in our gospel. We need to recognise that the Lord will arrive or that our earthly lives might end suddenly. Do we accept that reality, or do we walk around in a dream, thinking that judgement is just a vague distant reality? When we are awake and ready, all the temptations of the world become far less appealing. We live lives worthy of our calling as sons and daughters of God. Yes, Advent is a time to be alert. To live in a manner worthy of our calling. But it is also a time for preparation, a time to grow in knowledge of the Lord and his love for us, as we approach the beauty of the Incarnation. We can do this in different ways, in coming to Mass, adoration or confession on a Friday evening, attending Journeying with the Gospels on a Tuesday **or one of the extra 7.15am Masses on Fridays**. In our homes, making our own Advent wreath or cards, blessing our tree with holy water (with the lights off!) or by spiritual reading. What matters most is to do something.... something that wakes us up to the incredible event that we will celebrate

on 25 December and which makes us more prepared to celebrate full of faith, hope and love.

Planned Giving Drive Thank you, thank you. Thank you. To all who listened so patiently to the talks over the last three weeks, to our volunteers attending so many Masses over the weekends to assist with the project and to all of you who completed a form offering your time, talents and treasure, **all for the greater glory of God.** Times are challenging and we need to be able to keep this church open and functioning as a Eucharistic centred parish. This is not guaranteed. Changes are happening, across the diocese. We need help financial help and we need volunteers. Sadly, only about 10% of parishioners volunteer at the moment. If you want a church and a parish, for worship, weddings, baptisms, funerals, First Holy Communion/Confirmation, RCIA preparation, Catholic school form signing, then together, we must make this work. And we must support this parish beginning with our weekly obligation to attend Mass. If your family, friends or neighbours have fallen away from the practice, please encourage and invite them back to this or the parish they are living in. We have to support our parishes or lose them. If you missed out on completing a form, there are plenty left. Please complete before you leave today and hand back to the priest. ***It is important that everyone completes a new form.***

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 Holy Mass. Times to be published.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 3 December

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am	People of the Parish
9.30am	Mario Di Maria RIP 2 nd anniv.
11am	Daniel Shimon Shabani RIP
12.30pm	Sean Maguire RIP

Monday 4 December

Advent feria

8.30am	Nancy McLaughlin RIP
12noon	Daisy Birikorang RIP

Tuesday 5 December

Advent feria

8.30am	Padraig Folan Int.
12noon	Okoye Soluchi RIP 1yr Memorial

Wednesday 6 December

Advent feria

12noon	Holy Souls
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Thursday 7 December

St Ambrose

<i>12noon</i>	<i>Rebecca McLaughlin RIP Requiem Mass</i>
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Friday 8 December

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7.15am	Sarah Mulkerrin RIP
6pm	Departed, living and future generations of Otu & Leanlage families

Saturday 9 December

Advent feria

11am	Sunita Verro RIP
6pm	Maria Jose Santarsiero RIP 1 st anniv.

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.

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Pauline Coleman RIP anniv.

**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

St Joseph's Parents' Support Group - 8th December 10.30am (Please note earlier time). Come and have an early Christmas Get Together for all parents who have children of any age with Special Needs

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please consider sponsoring packs, suggested donation of £4.20 per pack, sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, SW1P 9EZ. Cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to NatWest sort code 60-60-04, a/c no 46088237. Thank you for your support.

Watford Catholic Women's League would like to thank the many parishioners who donated items, money and Gregg's vouchers. 105 men's bags & 10 ladies' bags to PACT, who will give these to prison chaplains for inmates leaving prison without anything, with a message to wish them well and show we care. Thank You. Also thank you to Fr Gerard and Fr Tim for their help, we couldn't have done this without them.

Family Catechesis Meeting for parents only who were unable to attend the October meeting Year 3 and above who have not made their First Holy Communion, Saturday 9th December at 4pm in the Parish Centre.

SVP Tea & Coffee This Sunday Teas, coffees, juices, delicious cakes and biscuits after the 9.30am, 11am and 12.30pm Masses. Please take the time to come join them and to socialise with your parishioners.

St Anthony's School SVP Mini Vinnies are visiting Holy Rood on Friday 8th December 2023, Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 12 noon Mass, followed by carols in the parish centre & a sandwich lunch. If you can attend the lunch, **please RSVP the Parish office** by Tuesday 5th December, for catering purposes. Please come along and support this worthwhile event, supporting our school & SVP

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 / 07887 726061.

Ascent/Life Ascending Group Visit to Poplars Nurseries, shopping & Lunch, Tuesday, 5th December. Departure time 11am from Market St/Percy Rd. Places limited. And a Festive Lunch, at Moon Under Water, Thursday 14th December, after 12 noon Mass. For more info contact Winnie Brady 01923 334998.