

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: Office closed until 9th January 2024
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00am-1:30pm &
1:30-3:00pm

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

Emma Daniels watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Watford Hospital Chaplaincy: 01923 244366

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford

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

Pages 115 & 118

The Epiphany of the Lord

7 January 2024

It's that time of the year again when many commit to New Year's resolutions. Perhaps, surprisingly these are a 4000-year-old tradition dating back to the time of the Babylonians. A similar tradition was established in Rome in 46 B.C., when Julius Caesar established 1st January as the start of a new year to honour the two-headed god Janus. Both traditions are rooted in the worship of pagan gods and were often focused on offering sacrifices and promising good conduct for the coming year in hopes of being in the gods' good graces.

In today's society, however, New Year's resolutions rarely focus on making promises to God, pagan or otherwise. In fact, the top three categories of resolutions revolve around health, self-improvement, and finance.

As Catholics, when setting out to make a New Year's resolution, it is important to have a properly disposed intention and involve God in the discernment process. What does He want you to do? How can you improve a habit or practice in your life that brings more glory to His Kingdom? How can you better your relationship with the Lord this year? Start small, Rome was not built in a day, as they say.

If or when you fail to keep your commitment, simply begin again. Each day presents a new start, a new beginning to try again. Remember a saint is not one who never failed but rather one who never gave up but persisted nonetheless. May God, the author of life, bless

you and your families and may He help you with his grace to remain steadfast and faithful to the end.

Housekeeping. New year, fresh start

Receiving Holy Communion. If receiving in the hand, please do not take the host with your fingers. This is not correct and there is a greater risk of dropping the sacred host. If holding children, wearing gloves or hands not in a fit state, please receive on the tongue.

Hats Must not to be worn by men or boys in church unless there is a medical reason.

Kneelers Please ensure they are folded back after every use. Please do not walk on them. They need to last for many more years.

Mobile Telephones Please put on silent and never answer a call in church.

Collectors for all Masses Parishioners have asked for the collection plate to return and the Finance Committee supports this. For this to happen, though we need at least 3 collectors per Mass. Please contact parish office if you can help.

Holy Land Collection Cardinal Vincent has asked us to have a collection to support the Holy Land during this terrible time of war. This will take place next weekend. Please use the contactless device or the envelopes provided. And above all, pray for those affected.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 7 January

The Epiphany of the Lord

8am	People of the Parish
9.30am	Shirley Clarke-Gonsalves
11am	Pat Browne RIP 1 st anniv.
12.30pm	Thomas O'Reilly RIP

Monday 8 January

The Baptism of the Lord

8:30am	Tim Foley RIP
12noon	Mary Bannon RIP

Tuesday 9 January

Feria

8.30am	Terry Jelly RIP
12noon	Geraldine Loughlin RIP

Wednesday 10 January

Feria

12noon	Caroline Teehan Private Int
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Thursday 11 January

Feria

12noon	Rucelle Chelsea Gomez RIP
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Friday 12 January

Feria

6pm	Luigina di Maria Int.
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Saturday 13 January

Feria

11:00am	Marice Gillespie Int.
6:00pm	People of the Parish

Sunday 14 January

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am	Rodolfo Ledesma
9.30am	Michael Karl-Joseph Lissek RIP.
11am	Sonia Faria RIP.
12.30pm	Emmanuel Civiello 1 st Anniv.

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Faye Miller Int.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

None this week

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

Life Ascending Group next meet on Tuesday, 16th January, after midday Mass for a meal at Cafe Bianco

School Applications signing sessions for Nursery & Reception on Saturday 13th January at 9am and Saturday 10th February for Nursery only, 9am. Parish Centre.

Catechism Corner Have you ever wondered why so much care is taken cleansing the chalice and ciborium? This process is called purifying and is carried out by the priest or deacon. Water is poured over the fingers into the sacred vessels to cleanse them of loose particles of the Body of Christ and remove any remaining Precious Blood. After the water is consumed, a purificator (white cloth) is used to dry the sacred vessels. The purificator is not used to cleanse the vessels of the sacred species in case fragments are misplaced. Whenever a fragment of the host adheres to the priest's fingers, he should wipe his fingers over the paten or, if necessary, wash them, ensuring any fragments that may have fallen outside the paten are gathered and consumed. The process is carried out gently and reverently. Any water in the finger bowl is poured into the sacrarium, a special sink that drains into the ground so the natural elements are returned to the earth in a more dignified manner than into the sewerage system. The small altar linens are soaked in water before being washed. The water is then poured into the earth rather than down a domestic sink. And we do all this because we are protecting and respecting the actual Body & Blood of Jesus Christ. Our sacrarium is at the rear of the sanctuary on the right-hand side. Take a look if you have never noticed it before.

Right To Life UK has launched a tool on its website that makes it easy to email your MP to ask them to oppose the two extreme abortion, up to birth, amendments, and sign Early Day Motion 131 to stop abortion pills being sent out without an in-person medical appointment. Please contact your MP now. It only takes a minute.

<https://righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments>

Good Counsel Network On Friday 12th January, the eve of the 27th anniversary of the founding of The Good Counsel Network, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support and visit

www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Holy Rood Catholic Primary School is looking for 'Midday supervisors' in our lunch staff team. Hours are between 11:30-1:30pm every day and all applicants will be subject to normal DBS checks for suitability to work with children. If you are interested, please contact the school office at Holy Rood on 0192322378

A Blessed New Year to all