

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 & Thursday
10am-1pm & 1.30pm-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

Emma Daniels watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Watford Hospital Chaplaincy: 01923 244366

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford

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

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

21 January 2024

Did not our hearts burn?

On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God.

The timing of the document is significant: 30 September is the Feast of Saint Jerome, known most for his translation of the Bible into Latin, and who coined the phrase: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ". Recalling the importance given by the Second Vatican Council to rediscovering Sacred Scripture for the life of the Church, Pope Francis says he wrote this Apostolic Letter (2019) in response to requests from the faithful around the world to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God.

The Holy Father invites local communities to find ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. He adds that The Bible is not meant for a privileged few but rather it belongs to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words.

The Pope uses the scene of the Risen Lord appearing to the disciples at Emmaus to demonstrate the unbreakable bond between Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist. Since the Scriptures speak of Christ, they enable us to believe that His death and resurrection are not myth but history, and are central to the faith of His disciples.

When the sacraments are introduced and illumined by God's Word, they become for us a means through which Christ opens our minds and hearts to acknowledge His saving work.

Planned Giving Drive This was a great success I am told, so thank you for your kindness and commitment. At this time of year, our bookkeeper is preparing the end of year accounts. We will then be able to provide a report of the PGD and accounts for the last 2 years.

Housekeeping. New year, fresh start

Litter Please take all tissues, water bottles, and litter home. There is a bin outside the church. Please do not leave for someone else to clear up. No food or drink in church please. Water okay if medically needed.

Mass / Hymn Books If you use these, please return to the proper book stands. Otherwise someone else has to.

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.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 21 January

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Raymund Gornall RIP anniv.
9.30am Elsa Hoyte RIP
11am Ninetta D'Urso RIP
12.30pm People of the Parish

Monday 22 January

Feria

8:30am Pasquale D'Urso RIP
12noon Cecilia Guirley Int.

Tuesday 23 January

Feria

8.30am Pasquale D'Urso RIP
No 12noon Mass

Wednesday 24 January

St Francis de Sales

12noon Markie Leo Int.

Thursday 25 January

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

12noon Joan Lyons RIP

Friday 26 January

Ss Timothy and Titus

11am Pasquale D'Urso RIP Requiem Mass
6pm Vincent Aloysious & Jeanette Barbara
Fredericks RIP

Saturday 27 January

Feria

11:00am Ned & Theresa Ryall RIP anniv.
6:00pm Beryl Keating RIP anniv.

Sunday 28 January

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Paolino Salamone RIP 1st anniv &
Mary Margaret O'Connor RIP 1st anniv
9.30am George Prim anniv.
11am James Wilkinson RIP anniv.
12.30pm People of the Parish

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Eddy Suhandar & family

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Tuesday 9am-11.30am; 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 The central places of a house of God are the altar with the crucifix, the tabernacle, the celebrant's chair, the ambo, the baptismal font and the confessional. The *altar* is the central point of the church. On it Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and Resurrection are made present in the celebration of the Eucharist. It is also the table to which the People of God are invited. The *tabernacle*, a kind of sacred safe, houses with the greatest honour in a most worthy place in the church the Eucharistic species in which the Lord himself is present. The so-called *perpetual lamp* indicates that the tabernacle is "occupied". If the lamp is not burning, the tabernacle is empty. The raised *chair* (Latin cathedra) of the bishop or the priest means that ultimately Christ is the one who leads the congregation. The *ambo* (from Greek *anabainein* = to climb up), the lectern for the Word of God, should manifest the value and dignity of the biblical readings as the Word of the living God. Baptisms are performed at the *baptismal font*, and the *holy water font* should be a vivid reminder of our baptismal promises. A *confessional* or *confession room* is there so that we can acknowledge our guilt and receive forgiveness.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Wednesday 24 January 12.30pm, St Mary's Parish Church, Watford Town Centre. Please bring your own lunch.

Holy Rood Walkers Group Interested in taking part in countryside walks organised locally and occasionally further afield? The difficulty grade is easy to medium and the distance between 5 to 7 miles. Transport is provided and the walks take place on Saturday (Feb - Nov). It is an excellent way to meet and socialise with your fellow parishioners. Contact Paul Montgomery on 07887726061 or paulmonty@ntlworld.com for further details.

Pilgrimage to Fatima 8 September 2024 for 7 days. Contact Parish office, closing date to book 31 January.

Holy Rood SVP Welcome Space Open every Monday 11.30am-2pm for homemade soup, sandwiches, hot drinks, cakes and good company. All welcome. More volunteers needed. Please contact Julie 07715 553690

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>