

Holy Rood Catholic Church

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

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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

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

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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

28 January 2024

A Commitment to Education is central to the mission of the Catholic Church. The Catholic Education Service reminds us that since 1850, the Church's aim has been to provide a place in a Catholic school for every Catholic child. The Catholic community works in close partnership with Central Government in England and in Wales, and with Local Authorities in its provision of education. This partnership is enshrined in a variety of administrative and financial arrangements. Catholic schools, funded jointly by the State and the Church, make up 10% of the total maintained sector of England and Wales. Most are owned by Diocesan Trustees who appoint the majority of governors. The governing bodies employ all staff and have the responsibility for admissions and the curriculum.

Within Catholic schools and colleges, each individual is seen as made in God's image and loved by Him. All students are valued and respected as individuals so that they may be helped to fulfil their unique role in creation. It is important therefore that we provide high quality pastoral care throughout our schools and colleges in order to support the individual needs of each student.

Catholic education aims to offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on the Christian virtues. In religious education in particular, the Church aims to transmit to them the Catholic faith. Both through religious education and in the general life of the school, young people are prepared to serve as witnesses to moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

With this in mind we have great News from our parish schools.

Congratulations to St Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Nursery being rated Outstanding in all areas by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate on behalf of the Archbishop of Westminster, following the inspection at the end of November. The areas looked at were Catholic life and mission, religious education and collective worship. The lead inspector summarised her findings after two intense days of scrutiny. Wonderful religious education and spiritual guidance is given to the children by staff with whom they enjoy high-quality relationships and share a strong sense of community. The children are clearly able to articulate and act out the mission statement 'We Grow and Learn with Jesus'. The report rightly celebrates the mutual respect for the dignity of others and the way that the children have really embraced their roles as Mini-Vinnies is a testament to that.

And congratulations to Holy Rood Primary School who are feeling incredibly proud of their recent Ofsted Inspection. After a long time waiting for this inspection, the report reflects everything that is held in high esteem for our children and families, and emphasises a strong focus on the 'whole child' being nurtured and loved by the adults and children around them, whilst still aspiring for high academic and personal development outcomes for them as well. After a successful Diocesan inspection in March 2023, we are very proud to now have the validation as an Outstanding Catholic Primary School according to the most up to date benchmarks of

assessment from both Ofsted and the Diocese. Thank you to everyone across our Parish Community, and particularly Fr. Gerard, for your unwavering support and prayers for our staff and children; the power of which, helps to remind us all at Holy Rood Catholic Primary School that God is with us in our mission to provide outstanding Catholic education to all that we are called to serve. Let's always support our Catholic schools. Use them, or lose them. And a huge thank you to both schools for truly amazing carol services. Such talent.

Kneelers Please ensure they are folded back after every use. Please do not walk on them.

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.

Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts, cards and kind words over the season. And above all the joy brought into the church. It is so encouraging for all. May God bless you all and your loved ones.

St Joseph's Parent Support Group for all parents of children of any age with special needs, on Friday 2 February at 11am in the parish centre

SVP Tea & Coffee Next Sunday, and a wide selection of cakes after the 9.30am / 11am / 12.30pm Masses. Please take the time to come join them and to socialise with your fellow parishioners. All are welcome!

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 a 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 details.

Life Ascending Bring & Share Lunch which the Harrow Connex Group have asked to take part in. Also, an outing to Benington Lordship, near Stevenage, on Tuesday, 20th February, to see the snowdrops. Booking essential - please contact Winnie Brady on 01923 334998.

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

Holy Rood SVP Welcome Space Every Monday 11.30am-2pm for homemade soup & sandwiches.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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 RIP anniv.
 11am James Wilkinson RIP anniv.
 12.30pm People of the Parish

Monday 29 January

Feria

8:30am Jim Hayes RIP
 12noon Sr Redempta RIP

Tuesday 30 January

Feria

8.30am Mary Lehane Int.
 12noon Victor Gomes RIP anniv.

Wednesday 31 January

Saint John Bosco

12noon Past, present and future generations of Otu and Leanlage families

Thursday 1 February

Feria

12noon Boris Lobo Int.

Friday 2 February

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Candle Mass – Procession with Candles

6pm Anthony Reginald Ryder RIP

Saturday 3 February

Ss Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore

11:00am Pasquale D'Urso RIP
 6:00pm Pat McCarthy RIP

Sunday 4 February

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Anne Smyth Thanksgiving
 9.30am People of the Parish
 11am Martin Conroy RIP
 12.30pm Reine Celestine DeCasa Thanksgiving

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Fiona Joyce Thanksgiving

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Tuesday 9am-11.30am; Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

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