

# Holy Rood Catholic Church

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

**Tel:** 01923 224 085

**Parish Email:** [watford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk) (☎Opt 2)

**Parish Administrator:** Annette Rahilly

**Parish Bookkeeper:** Jacqueline Faria

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Aitana Mateo  
[watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Emma Daniels [watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Watford Hospital Chaplaincy:** 01923 244366

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford](http://www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford)

**Web & Streaming:** [parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford)

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**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4 February 2024

**Priestly Vocations** I recently was invited into Holy Rood School, Year 4, to share information about the priesthood. The children were on the ball and asked very good and sensible questions, their task being to produce a person specification for the job of a priest. Whilst we know priesthood is a vocation, the process was very thought provoking. Let us continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood, so we can keep our parishes and churches open in this country. This is an example of some of the excellent work produced. Akiras wrote the following. I am not sure if I met the criteria. Fr Gerard.

## **To explain how people in the parish serve the Church community.**

Have you ever wondered if the vocation of being a Parish Priest suits you? To find out more about this exciting opportunity, read on!

### ***Job Title: Parish Priest***

#### Qualifications

For this wonderful privilege you must put your heart and soul into everything that you do. You have to ensure that you can teach and bless Catholics. You must follow Jesus and God, whether they call you or not. It is essential for you to attend Mass proudly. We require someone who is pious and positive. You need the rights to bless the sick in hospitals.

#### Job Specification

You are committed to handle your generous teaching. You must be reverent in what you do. Every day you will look up to God. It is important that you are always religious during Mass and calm. This vocation will

include kindness, making good relationships.

#### Personal Attributes

We are hoping for a trustworthy person who will prepare for any needs and show love and respect. A desirable candidate will be honest and do a good deed every day. A Parish Priest will be caring, kind to children, friendly and the best they can be. We have a vacancy for those who show great respect to God and Jesus around them.

*God our Father, you give us the Sacraments as signs and instruments of your love and mercy. Draw from amongst your disciples, men who are willing to generously serve your Church as priests, to minister to your people and to proclaim the Gospel to all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Pilgrimage to Fatima** 8 September 2024 for 7 days. If interested, please contact the Parish office asap.

**SVP Tea & Coffee this Sunday**, wide selection of cakes after the 9.30am, 11am, & 12.30pm Masses. Please take the time to come socialise and learn about SVP.

**Life Ascending** Bring & Share Lunch with the Harrow Connex Group, Tues 6 February, 12.30, Parish Centre. Also, outing to Benington Lordship, near Stevenage, on Tuesday, 20 February, to see the snowdrops. Booking essential - please contact Winnie Brady on 01923 334998.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### 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 De Casa Thanksgiving

### Monday 5 February

#### St Agatha

8:30am Mary Tangney RIP  
12noon Ellen Collier RIP Requiem Mass

### Tuesday 6 February

#### St Paul Miki and Companions

8.30am Mary & Johnny Coelho RIP  
12noon Patrizio Negri RIP

### Wednesday 7 February

#### Feria

12noon Shirley Clarke-Gonsalves Birthday Int.

### Thursday 8 February

#### Feria

12noon Private Int. to St Jude

### Friday 9 February

#### Feria

6pm Rucelle Chelsea Gomez RIP

### Saturday 10 February

#### St Scholastica

11:00am John Olohan RIP  
6:00pm People of the Parish

### Sunday 11 February

#### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Tony Olohan and family Int.  
9.30am John Shepherd RIP  
11am Sonia Faria RIP  
12.30pm Giovanni Micciche RIP 30<sup>th</sup> anniv.

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Domenico & Maria Jose Santarsiero RIP

#### 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 Mass** There is no higher or better prayer than when you go to Mass. Go to give.... then you will receive. Don't give up if you find it difficult to go. It takes many years to appreciate the Mass.

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

**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.

**Planned Giving Envelopes** ready to be collected from Parish office.

**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](mailto:paulmonty@ntlworld.com) for details.

**Nursery School Applications** Signing on 10 & 17 February for Nursery only, 9am Parish centre. Nursery applications date closes on Friday 23 February 2024.

**National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life** On Saturday 10 February, the Vigil of the Feast Our Lady of Lourdes, 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. [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

**Women's World Day of Prayer 2024** Friday 1 March, A Service at The Scroll Church, The Harebreaks WD24 6NF at 2pm. Refreshments after. For more information visit [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk). Also see noticeboard.

**Sponsoring the Blessed Sacrament Lamp** If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a particular intention, please contact the parish office.

**Requests for Newsletter** Please email these to the parish office and we will try our best to include items. Space is limited.