

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: Annette Rahilly
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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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11 February 2024

Our season of Lent soon begins and it is a time for us to reflect on our rebirth in Baptism and engage in spiritual renewal to prepare for Easter. Lent is 40 days from Ash Wednesday and culminates with Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. We remember how Jesus spent 40 days of fasting and prayer in the desert, before his public ministry. Our lives are very busy and there is a danger that the Lord gets drowned out. Jesus invites us to *"come away by ourselves to a desolate place and rest a while."* This can be a challenge for us but we **must** do something. There are many disciplines to help us live the season. On Wednesday our foreheads will be marked with ash, reminding us that we are dust and to dust we will return. We will practice a certain amount of self-denial. We might consider giving something up, devote more time to prayer, or visit the sick and lonely, all done in the right spirit, with humility, and certainly receiving the Sacrament of Confession either here or another church. There will be 2 opportunities a week, to walk the Stations of the Cross, reflecting on the Passion of Jesus Christ and a visiting priest for Confession on Friday 22 March. On Friday mornings an extra Mass will be celebrated, for those on the way to work or school. Let us try and choose one of these extra opportunities, outside of Sunday Mass, to make Lent truly special and holy. (No flowers for Lent.)

Almsgiving The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving,"

which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. This year our almsgiving will be divided between the New Hope charity, helping the homeless on our doorstep, and which many of you are familiar with, and helping our brothers and sisters in The Holy Land, in this terrible time of war. Thank you, as always, for your generosity. Please use the contactless devices.

Lent Prayer Almighty and Everlasting God, you have given the human race, Jesus Christ our Saviour, as a model of humility. He fulfilled your will by becoming Man and giving His life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to you by following His example of suffering and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

Congratulations to Ana & Philip who were married here on Thursday. God bless you both.

Congratulations to Daniel Crosse and Luke Coleman who were recently received into the Catholic Church.

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

Life Ascending 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 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 30th anniv.

Monday 12 February

Feria

8:30am Djohn Gonzaga Int.
12noon Annie Spittle RIP anniv.

Tuesday 13 February

Feria

8.30am Edmund Prendiville RIP
No 12noon Mass Deanery Meeting

Wednesday 14 February

ASH WEDNESDAY

7.15am The Homeless
12noon Vocations to the Priesthood
7.30pm John Joyce Int.

Thursday 15 February

Lent Feria

12noon Lucia Torrano RIP Requiem Mass

Friday 16 February

Lent Feria

7.15am Okoye Soluchi RIP
12.30pm Stations of the Cross
6pm Kit Carty RIP Followed by
Stations of the Cross

Saturday 17 February

Lent Feria

11:00am Devika Parente RIP 1st a nniv.
6:00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 18 February

First Sunday of Lent

8am Jim Dines RIP anniv.
9.30am Perlita Baggayan Int.
11am Julia and Bernard Bristoll RIP
12.30pm Rose Hollywood RIP 1st anniv.

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Celia Polidario Private Int.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDECTION

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

Initial Bookings via Deacon Neviile (Opt 2)

Catechism Corner No other Church on earth can claim these truths except the Catholic Church....

1. The only Church founded by Jesus Christ.
2. The only Church that gave the world the Bible.
3. The only Church that has all the Sacraments instituted by Christ.
4. The only Church whose leadership can trace its authority to Christ and the Apostles.
5. The only true "universal" Church on earth with a solid, unified doctrine and teaching.

Ash Wednesday. Extra Mass at 7.15am.

Zita O'Connor RIP A long standing parishioner sadly died recently . Funeral arrangements. Reception into church Wednesday 21 February, 5pm. Requiem Mass Thursday 22nd February at 12noon.

Priest name boards have returned to St John's Chapel. Take a look and pray for all the priests who have served at Holy Rood and for more vocations to the priesthood.

Holy Rood SVP Welcome Space Every Monday 11.30am-2pm for tea, coffee, homemade soup, sandwiches, cake and company. Everyone welcome.

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 Please collect at office.

CWL Meeting in Parish centre 2pm Tuesday 13 February. Guest speaker about training of Guide Dogs.

Nursery School Applications Signing, 17 February for Nursery only, 9am Parish centre.

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.

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 1 March. Service at The Scroll Church, The Harebreaks at 2pm. For more information see noticeboard.