

# Holy Rood Catholic Church

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

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**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:** TBC  
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**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)

Pages 148

**First Sunday in Lent**

18 February 2024

**Begin Again** The liturgical use of ashes originates in the Old Testament. Ashes symbolised mourning, humility and penance. Job repented in sackcloth and ashes; the prophet Daniel turned back to the Lord, by earnest prayer, fasting and sitting in ashes and Jonah after preaching repentance to the Ninevites, the king covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes and the populace were spared of God's wrath.

Jesus also made reference to ashes. In reference to the towns that refused to repent of sin although they had witnessed miracles and heard the good news, our Lord said, "*If the miracles worked in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes*".

Over time, the use of ashes was adapted to mark the beginning of Lent and the ritual is found in the earliest editions of the Gregorian Sacramentary, which dates back to at least the eighth century.

Around the year 1000 AD, an Anglo-Saxon priest named Aelfric preached: "*We read in the books, both in the Old Law and in the New, that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast.*"

In our present liturgy, ashes are made from the palms of the previous year. The priest blesses them and imposes them on our foreheads, making the sign of the cross, saying, "Remember, that you are dust and to dust you shall return," or "Repent and believe in the Gospel"

As we begin this holy season of Lent to prepare ourselves for Easter, let us keep in mind the significance of the ashes we have received, so that we may be ready to

receive Him who suffered, died and rose for our salvation.

*"Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments". Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and repents of evil. (Joel 2:12-13)*

**What a blessed start to Lent** Great attendance at our 3 Masses, with St Anthony's School joining us for the 12noon Mass, a school Mass at Holy Rood, pastoral visits to people at home and care home visits. We all have another chance of renewal and by Easter we need to have changed and be better Christians. Let us take up some of the extra Lenten works. An extra 7.15am Mass on Fridays for those going to work or school. Stations of the Cross at 12.30pm and 6.30pm on Fridays. Sacrament of Confession, Fridays at 6.30pm and Saturdays at 11am. (A visiting priest will join us on Friday 22 March.) And our Lenten Almsgiving project this year split between New Hope and the Holy Land. God bless you all.

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

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

**Collectors for all Masses** For this to happen though, we need at least 3 collectors per Mass. Please contact parish office.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> anniv.

### Monday 19 February

#### Lent Feria

No 8.30am Mass

12noon John Sanderson Int.

### Tuesday 20 February

#### Lent Feria

No 8.30am Mass & No Exposition

12noon Reparation of families, past, present  
and future generations of Otu, Leanlage  
and Pearson

### Wednesday 21 February

#### Lent Feria

12noon Ninetta D'Urso RIP

5pm Zita O'Connor RIP Reception into Church

### Thursday 22 February

#### The Chair of St Peter the Apostle

12noon Zita O'Connor RIP Requiem Mass

### Friday 23 February

#### Lent Feria

7.15am Mehmood Gill RIP anniv.

12.30pm Stations of the Cross

6pm Ninetta D'Urso RIP birthday  
followed by Stations of the Cross

### Saturday 24 February

#### Lent Feria

11:00am Okoye Soluchi RIP

6:00pm Maria Jose Santarsiero RIP

### Sunday 25 February

#### Second Sunday in Lent

8am Gary Murphy RIP  
9.30am People of the Parish  
11am Martin Conroy RIP  
12.30pm Reparation of families, past, present  
and future generations of Otu, Leanlage  
Pearson

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Okoye Soluchi RIP

#### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm

#### SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Friday 6.30pm-7pm

Saturday 11.30am-12noon & 5pm-5.30pm

#### BAPTISMS

Initial Bookings via Deacon Neville (Opt 2)

**Catechism Corner** A recent survey in the United States revealed that 70% of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. They saw it merely as symbolic. If that survey were to be repeated in the UK, would it find a similar proportion of Catholics who would report the same? The Real Presence is what we will reflect on in Lent. Let us recall how we should be receiving Holy Communion at Mass. When we approach to receive Holy Communion, the Priest or Minister holds up the Sacred Host in front of you and says "Body of Christ". You respond by saying "Amen". The Sacred Host is then placed on your tongue or in your hand. If you receive the Sacred Host in your hand, place the Sacred Host in your mouth before moving away from the Priest or Minister. Under no circumstances should you carry the Sacred Host away from the Sanctuary in your hand. If you ask yourself now, do you believe the Eucharist is the true body of Christ or just symbolic.? If the latter, we have a lot of work to do. *To be continued...*

**Cardinals Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25 May 2024 at 2.30pm for all couples who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. Please email office the following details: husband & wife's names, wedding date, address and tel. number.

**The Croxley Green Community Choir & Gerry O'Beirne** present a concert "A Feast of Fauré" in the church on Wednesday 20th March at 19:45 in aid of the Rennie Grove Peace Hospice & The Society of St Vincent de Paul. Programme: Details on noticeboard. 07858 210168 email: [choir.cgcc@gmail.com](mailto:choir.cgcc@gmail.com)

**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.

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

**Planned Giving Envelopes** New envelopes, up to Easter, and recently requested, are available for collection from parish office. New envelopes to use after Easter are being prepared and will be available soon.

*No Act of virtue can be great, if not followed by advantage for others.*