

# 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:** TBC  
[watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

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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)

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**Second Sunday in Lent**

25 February 2024

**After a wonderful start to Lent** let us continue to mark the season in a special way. 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 11.30am. (A visiting priest will join us on Friday 22 March.) And our Lenten Almsgiving project - New Hope Charity and the Holy Land. God bless you all.

**Right to Life** have asked us for support of a campaign to reduce the abortion time limit to 22 weeks. The date of the debate has not yet been confirmed, but likely to be beginning of March. This amendment would reduce the abortion time limit from 24 to 22 weeks in England and Wales and if passed, it will likely save a number of lives and will be the first positive change to our abortion law for a number of years. Please ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Please take action and collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment. Thank

**Synod of Bishops 2024 The Synod of Bishops, meeting in October 2024**, is concerned with a renewal of the Church's mission, particularly how we build up communion and widen participation. For our

diocese to contribute to the next stage of this process, we are asked to reflect on a few simple questions about how our own parish is living out the Church's mission. Please pray and reflect on these questions at home, and email me your thoughts, by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at the latest** on parish email, Fr Gerard at [watford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:watford@rcdow.org.uk)

1. How do we witness as a parish and proclaim our faith to:  
• those who have never heard of Christ; • those who have ceased walking with Christ; • those with whom we worship Christ (those who go to church)?
2. How should we organise ourselves as a parish to do this more effectively?
3. What concrete steps/formation opportunities would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?
4. What structures may need to change? How might we need to develop the way we are organised currently?

**Congratulations** to Michael Luca who was received into the Catholic Church last weekend. May God bless him and keep him safe.

**CAFOD Lenten Appeal.** Please give today using contactless or envelopes at the back of the church.

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

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### Sunday 25 February

#### Second Sunday in Lent

8am Gary Murphy RIP  
9.30am People of the Parish  
11am Martin Conroy RIP  
12.30pm Otu, Leanlage & Pearson families Int.

### Monday 26 February

#### Lent Feria

No 8.30am Mass

12noon Hilda Taylor RIP anniv.

### Tuesday 27 February

#### Lent Feria

8.30am Bella Fernandes Int.  
12noon Otu, Leanlage & Pearson families Int.

### Wednesday 28 February

#### Lent Feria

12noon Kit Carty RIP

### Thursday 29 February

#### Lent Feria

12noon Baccino Secondina & Giovanni RIP

### Friday 1 March

#### Saint David

7.15am Sylvia Vernon Int.  
12.30pm Stations of the Cross  
6pm Private Int. to the Holy Trinity  
followed by Stations of the Cross

### Saturday 2 March

#### Lent Feria

11:00am Nora Ward RIP  
6:00pm Family Int. of Jolanta

### Sunday 3 March

#### Third Sunday in Lent

8am People of the Parish  
9.30am Zita O'Connor RIP  
11am Stephen Downing RIP 1<sup>st</sup> anniv.  
12.30pm Piety Carvalho RIP anniv.

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

*Okoye Soluchi RIP*

#### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

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

**Catechism Corner** *Reverence for the Eucharist.* A convincing indication of the effectiveness of eucharistic catechesis is surely an increased sense of the mystery of God present among us. This can be expressed in concrete outward signs of reverence for the Eucharist which the process of mystagogy, a process that leads us through the mysteries. Generally speaking, of the importance of gestures and posture, such as kneeling during the central moments of the Eucharistic Prayer. Amid the legitimate diversity of signs used in the context of different cultures, everyone should be able to experience and express the awareness that at each celebration we stand before the infinite majesty of God, who comes to us in the lowliness of the sacramental signs. *Pope Benedict XVI.*

**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.

**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.

**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)

**The Stations of the Cross** are a popular devotion during Lent. Known as *Via Crucis* in Latin, this form of prayer commemorates the journey Jesus made to Calvary, and the various steps he made in that journey. Fourteen "stations" are featured in total. Each station usually begins with a verse by someone leading the prayer. The group responds in unison. Short words of meditation then lead into a shared prayer, recited by all. Those gathered process around the church, stopping at the artwork depicting each step in Jesus' path to the cross. Stations of the Cross have a rich history within the Church. In modern times, Stations of the Cross often take place on Friday evenings during Lent. Many churches, like ours, will hold a special service for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.