

# 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)

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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**Third Sunday in Lent**

3 March 2024

**Sign of Peace** During the pandemic the Sign of Peace was suspended and did not return in many places. The gesture did get out of hand and became a big distraction with Jesus Christ, being actually present on the altar. Pope Benedict XVI reminded us - By its nature the Eucharist is the sacrament of peace. At Mass this dimension of the eucharistic mystery finds specific expression in the sign of peace. Certainly this sign has great value (cf. *Jn 14:27*). In our times, fraught with fear and conflict, this gesture has become particularly eloquent, as the Church has become increasingly conscious of her responsibility to pray insistently for the gift of peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family. Certainly there is an irrepressible desire for peace present in every heart. The Church gives voice to the hope for peace and reconciliation rising up from every man and woman of good will, directing it towards the one who "is our peace" (*Eph 2:14*) and who can bring peace to individuals and peoples when all human efforts fail. We can thus understand the emotion so often felt during the sign of peace at a liturgical celebration. Even so, during the Synod of Bishops there was discussion about the appropriateness of *greater restraint in this gesture, which can be exaggerated and cause a certain distraction in the assembly just before the reception of Communion*. It should be kept in mind that nothing is lost when the sign of peace is marked by a sobriety which preserves the proper spirit of the celebration, as, for example, when it is restricted to one's immediate neighbours. (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 49.) Many people do not like to shake hands or too much or no tactility. If you chose to offer the sign of peace with a handshake be aware of those around you. A simple nod

may suffice and offering the gesture to just those beside you rather than moving around and causing distraction. Remember the host, the Body of Christ, is being elevated by the priest.

**Right to Life** have asked us for support of a campaign to reduce the abortion time limit to 22 weeks. Debate date to be confirmed, beginning of March. If passed, 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. A significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb. Please take a postcard today from the back of the church and post to your MP urgently. Thank you.

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

**Beginning Experience** is a residential weekend resource for the widowed, separated and divorced to help with feelings of grief and loss. Contact: Mary: 0208 647 4760, or Maura: 07795 498445, or email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com)

**SVP Tea & Coffee This Sunday** Teas, Coffees, juices, of cakes and biscuits 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!

**Repository** New stock of crucifixes, (every home needs one, St Patrick's Day, Easter & Mother's day cards. Rosaries, bibles and pictures.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### 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.

### Monday 4 March

#### Lent Feria

12noon Rita Anne O'Meara RIP 1<sup>st</sup> anniv.

### Tuesday 5 March

#### Lent Feria

8.30am Mary Cotter RIP  
12noon Michael O'Donoghue RIP

### Wednesday 6 March

#### Lent Feria

12noon Doris & Charles Lyons RIP

### Thursday 7 March

#### Lent Feria

12noon Micheál Ó Lionáird RIP

### Friday 8 March

#### Lent Feria

7.15am Allan St Rose Int.  
12.30pm Stations of the Cross  
6pm Mary Kerfoot RIP  
followed by Stations of the Cross

### Saturday 9 March

#### Lent Feria

11:00am Antanas Vaidaugas RIP  
6:00pm Nora & Eddie Briody RIP anniv.

### Sunday 10 March

#### Fourth Sunday in Lent

8am People of the Parish  
9.30am Joko Mayuga Int.  
11am Mary Kiely RIP  
12.30pm Maria Jose Santarsiero RIP

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

*Avrille Bailey Int.*

#### 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

**Catechism Corner** *Reverence for the Eucharist.* At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and wine, declared them to be his Body and Blood, shared them with his disciples, and instructed them to "do this in memory of me." When we think of a memorial, we normally think of remembering an event or a person in terms of "calling them to mind." Photos, statues, or services call to mind significant events in history from us help us call them to mind. The Holy Mass is a memorial. However, it is not a memorial in the same way as just described. The Mass does more than call to mind the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. If the Mass were only a memorial in the common use of the term, some sort of dramatic re-enactment of these saving events in the life of Christ would probably be more appropriate. Instead, the Church has passed down a ritualised liturgical celebration that has been organically developed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit through the centuries. *To be continued...*

#### Christian Leadership Formation Programme

Applications have been extended until Easter Sunday. For Sixth Form students. A unique programme, validated by a certificate from St Mary's University-Twickenham. We offer the future leaders of Britain an intensive intellectual, ethical, and practical formation, rooted in the perennial truths of Christian faith. Our onsite offerings in both Stonyhurst and London. A solid foundation for our participants as they look to enter universities and the public sphere. Further information - [christianleadershipformation.com](http://christianleadershipformation.com).

**Life Ascending** Bring & Share Lunch for everyone in the Parish Centre, after midday Mass on Tuesday 5 March and watching of the film of *Babette's Feast*.

**St Joseph's Parent Support Group** for all parents of children of any age with special needs. Come and share your ideas, give and receive support from others who understand, 11am Friday 15 March in the Parish Centre.

**Altar Linens Laundry** Help needed. Please speak with Fr Gerard.

**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)

**Cardinals Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** Westminster Cathedral. Please see notice board for details.