

# 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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**4th Sunday in Lent - Laetare & Rose Sunday**

10 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.

**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)

**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).

**Cardinals Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** Westminster Cathedral Saturday 25 May at 2.30pm. All couples celebrating a significant Catholic wedding anniversary in 2024. Please see notice board for details.

**Caritas Supermarket Vouchers** available for those in need. Please contact, in confidence, the parish office.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### 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

### Monday 11 March

#### Lent Feria

*No Masses today*

### Tuesday 12 March

#### Lent Feria

8.30am Maria Incononata Benvenga RIP  
*No 12noon Mass – Deanery meeting*

### Wednesday 13 March

#### Lent Feria

8.30am Nick Benvenga RIP  
12noon Celia Polidario Int.

### Thursday 14 March

#### Lent Feria

12noon Otu, Leanlage & Pearson families Int.

### Friday 15 March

#### Lent Feria

7.15am Gian Luigi Int.  
12.30pm Stations of the Cross  
6pm Lucy & Dan Marriage Int.  
followed by Stations of the Cross

### Saturday 16 March

#### Lent Feria

11:00am Lucia Torrano RIP  
6:00pm People of the Parish

### Sunday 17 March

#### Fifth Sunday in Lent

8am Stanley McCarrick anniv.  
9.30am Daisy Birikorang RIP  
11am Nunnziata Caroleo RIP anniv.  
12.30pm Emanuele Civiello RIP

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

*Avrille Bailey Int.*

#### 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

#### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK by request

#### BAPTISMS

Rev. Deacon Neville - 01923 224085 (Opt 2)

ALL BOOKINGS VIA PARISH OFFICE

**Catechism Corner** As we are torn in our secular world away from Our Lord, let us be guided by the words of St Paul. 'Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. *Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind.* This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.' *Romans 12:1-2*

**Mothering Sunday** We ask God's blessings on all mothers, present and gone to God and for Our Lady, Mother of the Universe, to intercede for us.

**Lent** Extra Friday 7.15am Mass for workers, school children and others continues. Stations of the Cross Fridays at 12.30pm & 6.30pm.

**St Joseph's Parent Support Group** for parents of children of any age with special needs. Advice & support. Friday 15 March in the Parish Centre at 11am.

**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. Full details on noticeboard. 07858 210168.

**Easter Offering** If you are going to be away over Easter, please consider making your offering before you go. The offerings at Christmas and Easter make up Fr Tim's & Fr Gerard's annual stipend of £10,900 each. It is not as well as. The diocese do not allow the Easter Sunday standing orders to go to the priests. We are so grateful for your constant kindness and support.

#### Holy Week & Easter Service Times

Good Friday 29 March

Passion of Our Lord, 12noon & 3pm

Stations of the Cross & readings, 7.30pm

Vigil of Easter, Saturday 30 March. First Mass of Easter at 7.30pm.

Easter Sunday, 8am, 9.30am, 11am & 12.30pm.

