

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 (☎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

Web & Streaming: parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford

Pages 176 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 9.30am & 11am Masses begin in Patio

What's Love Got To Do With It? It is tempting to question why God does or wills something or why He allows certain things to happen. It is entirely possible that we may never truly know why God does anything since as the prophet Isaiah reminds the people of Israel God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

St. John tells us why Christ became incarnate. John 3:16 is one of the most memorable quotes from the New Testament "*For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son*". This text gives us an insight into the mind of God and helps us to understand why God chose to enter our temporal existence. The answer is love. But it is not a love that we can fully comprehend since our human understanding of love often comes with conditions. I will do this if you do something for me or if I do this for you, what is in it for me? Does this sound familiar?

However God's love is unconditional; it is selfless and knows no limits. We are soon approaching the end of Lent and it is understandable that at this point we can become tired and impatient; tempted to look for shortcuts or simply glad that the end is in sight. But, this is a crucial time for our faith; it is during these moments that we grow in holiness; we learn patience and try to persevere through the difficulties and challenges that confront us, in other words, we pick up our cross and follow Him.

At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, the Church professed that this holy season is a time of spiritual

warfare. In order to do battle the Church gives us the necessary weapons: prayer, fasting and almsgiving to help us in our struggle with the devil. If we are faithful and make use of our artillery then we will be able to stand up to the devil; strong in faith. Pope Benedict XVI suggests that in this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth and be ready to renew the promises of our Baptism.

Volunteers. Thank you to all those who volunteered in our recent Planned Giving Drive. I am working through the list and my priority will be pastoral visits to the house bound and care homes. Unfortunately our Safeguarding Department is failing us, in processing the DBS applications. There is a minimum wait of 3 months, with many more taking much longer. This is why our Sacrament of Confirmation programme has been delayed. I have raised my concerns with Bishop John Sherrington, Moderator of the Curia and Bishop Paul McAleenan, Area Bishop, as this ongoing problem is seriously impacting the delivery of pastoral care. A new Head of Safeguarding is being recruited (see notice Board for details) and your prayers are needed in order to appoint the right person for this crucial post. Fr Gerard

Chrism Mass All, are welcome to the Cathedral on Tuesday 26 March at 12noon, when all priests attend and renew their Priestly Promises. The Holy Oils are also blessed by Cardinal Vincent. The Masses will also be streamed live in the Parish Centre. Come along and watch with other parishioners.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 24 March

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8am Kennedy Nkemdirim Int.
9.30am Deceased Carty & Clancy families
11am Geoffrey White RIP
12.30pm John Rellis RIP anniv.

Holy Monday 25 March

8.30am Irene Fernandes Int.
12noon Deacon Steven Pickard RIP

Holy Tuesday 26 March

8.30am Sarah Figueiredo Int.
No 12noon Mass – Cathedral Chrism Mass

Spy Wednesday 27 March

12noon Johnnie Coelho Int.

Holy Thursday 28 March

No morning Masses

8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper- Vocations
to the Priesthood
9pm Watching At Altar of Repose until
Midnight

Friday 29 March

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

12noon Passion of our Lord
3pm Passion of our Lord
7.30pm Stations of the Cross & readings

Saturday 30 March

Holy Saturday

7.30pm First Mass of Easter – The Easter Vigil
Vocations to the Priesthood

Sunday 31 March

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8am People of the Parish
9.30am Joseph Hardwidge & George Howe RIP
11am Charlotte Lenas RIP anniv.
12.30pm Christopher Crocker RIP

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Maria Jose & Domenico Santarsiero RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Not this week

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Holy Saturday 10am -11am

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK by request

BAPTISMS

Rev. Deacon Neville - 01923 224085 (Opt 2)

Servers' Parents Please ensure your children have black shoes, trainers or plimsoles to serve Holy Mass.

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

Catechism Corner Why does the priest add a fragment of the host to the chalice? Firstly the large priest's host is broken in half. This is known as the fraction and indicates the wounding which caused Christ's death. A piece of the host is then added to the chalice containing the blood of Christ, just before the Lamb of God is recited. This mingling of the Eucharistic species symbolically expresses that on the altar, the living Body of Christ is present. The fraction represents His bloody sacrificial Death, and the mingling of His glorious Resurrection, in which His Body and Blood were again united and vivified.

Church Cleaning Please help on Holy Saturday, 30th at 9.30am, to make our church beautiful for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord.

Thank you to Anton Cataldo, a local artist, teacher and parishioner, for his work on the Crucifixion scene for the new chapel at St Anthony's Primary School and for organising 150 signed and limited-edition prints. These can be purchased from the repository for £20. 50% of proceeds goes to Holy Rood Building Fund. Thank you Anton.

Safeguarding Committee The Diocese of Westminster Trust Board wish to appoint 4 lay members to the Trustee's Safeguarding Committee. The role is to assist in the mission of ensuring the maintenance and further development of the Diocesan culture and practice of safeguarding. See Notice board for full details.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Holy Thursday 28 March

No morning Masses

Mass of the Lord's Supper 8pm
Followed by Watching until Midnight

Good Friday 29 March

Friday of the Passion of the Lord

12noon

3pm

7.30pm Stations of the Cross
& readings

Holy Saturday 30 March

The Easter Vigil 7.30pm

Sunday 31 March

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the
Lord**

8am, 9.30am, 11am & 12.30pm