

# 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  
[neilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:neilledyckhoff@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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**Second Sunday of Easter**

7 April 2024

## The perfect picture?

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament was known to very few people during her lifetime. But through her, God has spoken the message of His abundant mercy to the entire Church and world. Though its content is endless and unfathomable, here are five key ways that Jesus desires this devotion to be lived:

The first way is through *meditation on the sacred image of The Divine Mercy*. Saint Faustina was asked by Jesus to have an image of His merciful love painted for all to see. It's an image of Jesus with two rays shining forth from His Heart. The first ray is blue, indicating the font of Mercy coming forth through Baptism; and the second ray is red, indicating the font of Mercy poured forth through the Blood of the Holy Eucharist.

The second is *through the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday*. Jesus told Saint Faustina that He desired an annual solemn Feast of Mercy. This Solemnity of Divine Mercy was established as a universal celebration on the Eighth day of the Octave of Easter. On that day the floodgates of Mercy are opened and many souls are made holy.

The third is *through the Chaplet of Divine Mercy*. The chaplet is a treasured gift. It's a gift that we should seek to pray each and every day.

The fourth way is *by honouring the hour of Jesus' death every day*. It was at 3pm that Jesus took His last breath and died upon the Cross. It was Friday. For this reason, Friday

should always be seen as a special day to honour His Passion and ultimate Sacrifice. This is the ideal time to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. If the Chaplet is not possible, it is important to pause and give thanks to our Lord every day at that time. Lastly, the fifth way is *through the Apostolic Movement of The Divine Mercy*. This movement is a call from our Lord to actively engage in the work of spreading His Divine Mercy. This is done by spreading the message of mercy and being merciful toward others.

**A very blessed Easter Season** to you. Our celebrations continue beyond Easter Sunday. What we have received through the Resurrection is life giving and long lasting, not temporal like the things the world offers. A huge thank you to you all for making this church a life-giving parish, supporting the spread of the Gospel. And a special thank you to all who work quietly in the background. Your ministry doesn't go unnoticed.

**The Easter Liturgies** were truly magnificent and the prayerful attendance for the Sacrament of Confession and the Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil /Sunday we humbling, to say the least. Faith is still alive and strong but we will have to fight for it and our churches and the world progresses. When challenged recently, Cardinal Vincent was asked 'where are the green shoots of faith in the Church'. He told those asking to come to church and see. We certainly have green shoots here in Holy Rood, but let us never take anything for granted/

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### Sunday 7 April

#### Second Sunday of Easter

8am Pauline Walsh RIP 1<sup>st</sup> anniv.  
9.30am People of the Parish  
11am Daisy Birikorang RIP  
12.30pm Johnny Aranda Int.

### Monday 8 April

#### The Annunciation of the Lord

8.30am Margaret Sheehan RIP  
12noon Otu, Leanlage & Pearson families Int.

### Tuesday 9 April

#### Easter Feria

8.30am Ted Brady RIP anniv.  
12noon Paul O'Grady RIP

### Wednesday 10 April

#### Easter Feria

12noon Anthony Kelly RIP

### Thursday 11 April

#### St Stanislaus

12noon *Baldassare Manfre RIP – Requiem Mass*

### Friday 12 April

#### Easter Feria

12noon Wendy Cooper RIP

### Saturday 13 April

#### Easter Feria

11:00am Bonifacio Fernandes RIP  
6:00pm Adanna St Rose Int.

### Sunday 14 April

#### Third Sunday of Easter

8am Zita O'Connor RIP  
9.30am Alice & John O'Meara RIP  
11am Kampta Guya-Persaud RIP anniv.  
12.30pm People of the Parish

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

*Anthony Kelly RIP*

#### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Tuesday 9am-11.30am; Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm

#### SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

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

#### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK by request

#### BAPTISMS

Contact Rev. Deacon Neville - 01923 224085 (Opt 2)

ALL BOOKINGS VIA PARISH OFFICE

**Planned Giving Envelopes** New envelopes are available for collection from the sacristy.

**Fauré Concert** The excellent and well-supported evening of music in the church on 20 March, led by Gerry O'Beirne, raised £1,452 for the SVP and £1,452 for the Peace Hospice, as well as £207 for the Disasters Emergency Committee. An excellent result.

**The foreign coin and currency collection (Sept/Oct 2023) for the SVP** has now been finalised. The total sum, converted into sterling, amounted to an amazing £793.28. Most came from old British currency and euros, and some current legal tender. The SVP are very grateful for your generosity. Please continue to hold on to your old and foreign currency.

**Catholic Women's League** are holding their Annual Review on Tuesday 9th April 2pm in the Parish Centre followed by a Quiz.

**Cardinal's Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** Please see noticeboard for full details.

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

**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. Prints can be purchased from the repository for £20.

#### From The Finance Committee

**Easter Offering.** 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 does not allow the Easter Sunday standing orders to go to the priests.. The priests are extremely grateful for your support and generosity.

**The Financial Reports** for 2022 and 2023 have been prepared and will be available after Easter, along with an update for the recent Planned Giving Drive.

**Thank you** so much for the Easter cards and gifts but above all for the prayers, support and words of encouragement. We are truly grateful. Continued Easter blessings to you all and your loved ones.  
Fr Tim & Fr Gerard.

*He is risen. Alleluia.*