

# 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  
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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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**Third Sunday of Easter**

14 April 2024

## Good Shepherd Sunday

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, we will pray for vocations to the priesthood, as well as for our seminarians at the Royal English College in Valladolid, Allen Hall and the Beda College. Please also pray for the priests of our Diocese.

Good Shepherd Sunday provides an opportunity to talk about the life of the priest and invite men to consider this wonderful and grace-filled vocation. We hope that the Holy Spirit will stir in the hearts of other men to discern further a vocation to the priesthood. At a meeting of seekers earlier in the year, many were pleased to reflect on the mission of the Church and the importance of the priests whom they know. As we continue to reflect in our parishes on the mission of the Church, it was good to hear at the recent Council of Deans' meeting about the richness of prayer, sacramental life, and many charitable works in the diocese. Canon Roger Taylor continues to promote vocations to the priesthood. There are monthly Seekers' meetings, 'Come and See' days to be held in Potters Bar on 20 April and 1 June in Harpenden. He wishes to meet with deaneries, in parishes, with youth and adult groups and is welcoming invitations to visit schools. He is also very happy to come and meet interested individuals throughout the Diocese.

This year, we have 49 men studying at Allen Hall, of whom 13 are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda, presently on pastoral placement in Ruislip. There are also two on a propaedeutic year at Redemptorist Mater. Last year, 3 Deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. We look forward ordinations this summer.

**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 were humbling, to say the least. Faith is still alive and strong but we will have to fight for it and our churches as 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.

**Wellstones Car Park** Redevelopment of the existing car park and construction of a part 5, part 6, part 7, part 8 storey building comprising 89 self-contained flats (Class C) and a flexible non-residential unit at ground floor, associated roof top plant, private and communal amenity space, landscaping, refuse storage, cycle and car parking. Appeal References PP/Y1945/W/23/3332296 The Hearing for the application will be held at Town Hall, Annex Building, Room 206 Harebreaks on 9 May 2024 at 10am. Please attend if you can. The building will make a huge negative impact on our Grade 1 listed church.

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

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

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### 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

### Monday 15 April

#### Easter Feria

No 8.30am Mass  
12noon Joseph Kulanthai RIP

### Tuesday 16 April

#### Easter Feria

No 8.30am Mass  
12noon Daphne Downing RIP Requiem Mass

### Wednesday 17 April

#### Easter Feria

No 12noon Mass this week. Church opening times limited

### Thursday 18 April

#### Easter Feria

12noon Daphne Downing RIP

### Friday 19 April

#### Saint Alphege

6pm Deanna Deris Int.

### Saturday 20 April

#### Easter Feria

11:00am Ned & Nancy McLaughlin RIP  
6:00pm Teresa Alcorano RIP

### Sunday 21 April

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Wesley Dopson Int.  
9.30am People of the Parish  
11am Rodney Mallipal RIP  
12.30pm Sheila Szymczak RIP anniv.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**  
*Ned & Margaret Pender RIP anniv.*  
*Kathleen McCann RIP anniv.*

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
& BENEDICTION**  
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**

**Catechism Corner** Murder and acting as an accomplice to murder are forbidden. Killing unarmed civilians during a war is forbidden. The abortion of a human being, from conception, is forbidden. Suicide, self-mutilation, and self-destructive behaviour are forbidden. Euthanasia – killing the handicapped, the sick, and the dying – is also forbidden. Today people try to get around the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment with seemingly humane arguments. That is why the Church is perfectly clear on these questions. Whoever participates in an abortion, forces a woman to undergo an abortion, or merely advises her to do so is automatically excommunicated, if unrepented. If a psychologically ill person commits suicide, responsibility for the act of killing is often diminished and in many cases completely annulled.

**Attention Young Parishioners at Holy Rood** Our SVP group is setting a challenge for the young people of Holy Rood. Last year, Walter, 13, did a sponsored bike ride for the London SVP Soup, raising an amazing £1500. He had a chance to visit and work in the kitchen. "I was surprised at how much I enjoyed it." The 2024 sponsored bike ride will be local, off road and on flat ground. We're asking young people to join Walter on Saturday 18th May 2024, to cycle 20+ miles and to raise funds for the Soup Kitchen. All you need is a bike and a desire to help. Please email the parish office at [watford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:watford@rcdow.org.uk) or contact Paul Montgomery for further details.

#### **From The Finance Committee**

The Financial Reports for 2022 and 2023 have been prepared and are available. If you would like a copy please contact the parish office. This is sensitive information, so please keep in a secure place.

#### **Planned Giving Drive**

This was a great success and the parish have been very generous in offering financial support, as well as much needed time and talents. It will probably take many months or even up to a year to see the fruits of the drive to come to fruition. But at the moment, we can report that there were 201 responses to the Planned Giving Drive. 65 of the 201 were already existing standing order givers, totalling around £33k per annum and this has increased by £5k annually & 30 new planned givers. Several new standing orders, giving around £4.4k per annum. To summarise, an extra £18,520 per annum is due to come to the parish. The next end of year accounts will provide us with a clearer update. **THANK YOU.**

**Works** that will need to be carried out fairly swiftly. Tower repairs re: crumbling stonework. Roof and gutter repairs. Rising damp issues in house, parish centre, and church. Redecoration of the church and sealing of the church floor.