

# 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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**Good Shepherd Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter**

21 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.

**Wellstones Car Park** Redevelopment of the existing car park and construction of 8 storey building comprising 89 flats and associated builds. Appeal References PP/Y1945/W/23/3332296 The Hearing for the application will be held at Town Hall, Annex Building, Room 206 Harebreaks, situated within the Town Hall car park 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.

**Sadly** we heard of the death recently of Fr John Warnaby, 63, Parish Priest of our neighbouring parish, Carpenders park, after a short illness and Fr Michael Daley, 64, Parsons Green, London. This is a big blow to his brother priests. 4 priests in the last year have died in active ministry and one unable to work because of illness. Many priests are ill or still working into their 70's. Along with many long overdue retirements, this is seriously impacting on the current state of parish life and the future of our parishes. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, please pray daily for priests and for new vocations to the priesthood. When priests leave a parish, and people ask, who is coming next, the answer may soon be, no one. Please pray for the families of Fr John and Fr Michael. May their souls, rest in peace, Amen.

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

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### 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

### Monday 22 April

#### Easter Feria

8.30am Christopher Crocker RIP  
12noon Nora Clancy RIP

### Tuesday 23 April

#### SAINT GEORGE, Martyr, Patron of England

8.30am Pepe Polidario RIP  
12noon V S Eappen RIP

### Wednesday 24 April

#### Saints Erkenwald and Mellitus

12noon James Coffey RIP Requiem Mass

### Thursday 25 April

#### Saint Mark, Evangelist

8.30am Fr Michael Daley RIP

No 12 noon Mass Fr Michael Daley's Requiem Mass.  
Parson Green, London

### Friday 26 April

#### Easter Feria

6pm Stephen Downing RIP

### Saturday 27 April

#### Easter Feria

11:00am Megan Polidario Int.  
6:00pm People of the Parish

### Sunday 28 April

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Anne Smyth Int.  
9.30am Bernadette Hynes RIP  
11am Joseph Kulanthai RIP  
12.30pm Elizabeth Ahenda RIP

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

*Annette Int.*

#### 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

**Catechism Corner** **The mercy of God** Mercy is meant to be received from God and given to others in a limitless way. Our relationship with God and the reception of His mercy must become the foundation of our lives. As we grow in love of God, the holiness we experience will become the guiding source of how we relate to one another. Each person God puts into our lives will experience God's mercy through us in a way that God chooses. As we remain open to Him, He will use us to form holy bonds of love with all who are willing to receive that love.

**Parish Mission** In the Autumn we plan to have a Parish Mission, run by the Redemptorists. This really is something to look forward to. Please save the dates in your diaries Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Saint George** was born to a Roman officer and a Greek native of Lydda, were Christians from noble families, George and was raised to follow their faith. When George was old enough, he was welcomed into Diocletian's army. By his late 20's, George became a Tribunus and served as an imperial guard for the Emperor at Nicomedia. On February 24, 303 A.D., Diocletian, who hated Christians, announced that every Christian the army passed, would be arrested and offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods. George announced his beliefs before his peers. Diocletian, in an effort to save George, attempted to convert him to believe in the Roman gods, offering him land, money and slaves in exchange for offering a sacrifice to the Roman gods. Finally, Diocletian ordered George's execution. In preparation for his death, George gave his money to the poor and was sent for several torture sessions. He did not turn from God and was killed on April 23, 303 A.D.

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