

Holy Rood Catholic Church

Holy Rood Rectory, Exchange Road, Watford,
Hertfordshire. WD18 0PJ

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Parish Email: 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 (☎Opt 2)

Parish Administrator: Annette Rahilly

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

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

28 April 2024

Faith can move mountains

One of the most impressive female saints has to be St. Catherine of Siena, virgin, mystic, Dominican tertiary, bearer of the stigmata, doctor of the Church and patron of Europe.

Her life in many ways mirrored that of Christ, she died at the age of 33, the same as Christ, she bore the wounds of Christ in her body, though whilst she was alive only she could see them and only after her death did the wounds appear.

St. Catherine was one of 25 children, not all lived, her twin sister lasted only a few days and she grew up during one of the most tumultuous political times in French history. We know well the struggles between France and the papacy in 14th century...and without her bold and courageous efforts to convince the Pope to move back to Rome, the papacy as we know it may have looked very different, very *je-ne-sais-qua*...

Although St. Catherine was illiterate, she is recognised as a Doctor of the Church and a plethora of quotes by St. Catherine are left to us. Her spirituality was intense and deeply Trinitarian and she found refuge in the Crucified Christ, whom she made many appeals to when writing to Pope Gregory IX.

Indeed, St. Catherine, presented to us a life of holiness and the theological virtues: faith, hope and charity were the hallmarks of her life. Her faith was enough to move mountains, enough to move the pope back to Rome, her hope, full and not in vain because she knew from whom it was given and her charity, pressed down and running over; for great was her love of God and his Church. From

what she gave, God repaid in abundance and crowned her with eternal life.

May we learn from the example of St. Catherine who had a childlike faith and was not afraid of pursuing what is true, right, noble and good. By her intercession, may we too, be able to pierce the mysteries of God and so come to know better, the God who redeems us by His precious Blood.

St. Catherine of Siena, pray for us.

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.

Readers Please email office with your contact details so we can update our record and produce a new rota.

St Joseph's Parent Support Group Tuesday 11 May, Parish Centre, 11am. For parents of children of any age who have special needs, and would welcome some support.

Side Entrance to Church and Parish Centre This can now be used. However if you notice any masonry on the ground, please report immediately to Fr Gerard or Fr Tim.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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

Monday 29 April

Saint Catherine of Siena

8.30am Otu, Leanage & Pearson families
12noon Sunny Joseph RIP anniv.

Tuesday 30 April

Easter Feria

8.30am Giovanna Benvenga RIP anniv.

No 12noon Mass Fr John Warnaby Requiem

Mass at Carpenders Park, 12 noon.

Wednesday 1 May

Easter Feria

12noon Ellen & Michael Sheehan RIP

Thursday 2 May

Saint Athanasius

12noon John Mulloy RIP

Friday 3 May

Saints Philip and James

6pm Anthony & Angeline Coughlan Int.

Saturday 4 May

The English Martyrs

11:00am Deacon Neville & Veronica Int.
6:00pm Pauline Walsh RIP

Sunday 5 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8am People of the Parish
9.30am Fr Derek McGuire Int.
11am Daphne Downing RIP
12.30pm Jacob Corda RIP 1st anniv.

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Soluchi Okoye RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm this week

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 Is it permissible to offer assistance in dying? To bring about death directly is always against the commandment “You shall not kill” (Ex 20:13). In contrast, to stand by and assist a dying person is humane and even obligatory. The terms *active euthanasia* and *passive euthanasia* often confuse the debate. What really matters is whether a dying person is killed or allowed to die. In so-called *active euthanasia*, someone by direct action “helps” a person to die and thereby breaks the Fifth Commandment; in so-called *passive euthanasia*, someone helps another person in the dying process and thereby obeys the commandment “Love your neighbour”. *Passive euthanasia* means that, in view of the certain impending death of a patient, one withholds extraordinary or expensive medical procedures that are not proportionate to the expected outcome. The patient himself must make the decision to forgo “extraordinary” measures or must have stated this intention in an advance directive. If he is no longer capable of doing so, those who are legally entitled must represent the express or probable wishes of the dying person. Ordinary care of a dying person should never be discontinued; this is commanded by love of neighbour and mercy. Meanwhile it can be legitimate and in keeping with human dignity to use painkillers, even at the risk of shortening the patient’s life. The crucial thing is that the use of such medications must not aim at bringing about death, either as an end in itself or as a means of ending pain. (*Reference Catechism of the Catholic Church 2276-2279.*)

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. Please continue to 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. Fr John’s Requiem Mass is on Tuesday 30 April at 12noon. Reception of Body, Monday 29, at 6.30pm All welcome.

But You, O Lord, are a God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.” Psalm 86:15.