

Holy Rood Catholic Church

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

Tel: 01923 224 085

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

Parish Bookkeeper: Jacqueline Faria

Safeguarding Representatives: TBC
watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Emma Daniels watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Watford Hospital Chaplaincy: 01923 244366

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford

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

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

5 May 2024

Arrivals and Departures The number 40 is a number of great significance in the Bible. The great flood lasted 40 days, the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, King David reigned for 40 years, Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights and was tempted in the desert by Satan and today 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascends to His Father.

The ascension of Jesus, was initially met with anxiety and sadness. When Jesus told them He was going away to return to His Father, the apostles were troubled. Why, then, do we celebrate the Feast of Ascension, which is sometimes termed as Jesus' departure. Of course, if it is a departure, it is deemed a farewell. All forms of separation from our loved ones are painful. But in the case of Jesus, His Ascension is not exactly a separation. In fact, He would be even closer to us.

Jesus said, *"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."* Indeed, the departure of Jesus is preparation for his coming to us, the second time in a new way, not humbly as he did as a babe, but in glory, with all his saints and angels.

The coming of the Holy Spirit which we eagerly await, 50 days after Easter, at Pentecost will make Christ present in a new way, whenever the Word of God is read, whenever the sacraments are celebrated, particularly the celebration of the Eucharist; for *in communion* we become one in Jesus and He in us.

But we also celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, because one, it reminds us that Jesus is our High Priest in heaven

who intercedes for us before the Father and two, because it foreshadows our final destiny. Where the Head, has gone, *we* the Body hope to follow.

Until then, therefore, we must live a life of holiness so that we can reach the eternal pastures of heaven.

But salvation is more than just keeping ourselves from sin, or waiting for the coming of God's kingdom. We must be the extension of Jesus in the world and be His witnesses.

The Ascension of the Lord Holy Day of Obligation. We are obliged to attend Mass on this most important day. Vigil Mass Wednesday evening at 7pm and Thursday 12noon. Polish Mass at 7pm.

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.

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 support.

Car Park closed Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th May for new barrier and re-surfacing.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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.

Monday 6 May

Easter Feria

No 8.30am Mass Bank Holiday
12noon Edrich Charles Nunez Int. (1st bday)

Tuesday 7 May

Easter Feria

8.30am Brendan Hayden Int.
12noon Vivienne Hayden Int.
5pm Reception into church
Mary Rose Garston RIP

Wednesday 8 May

Easter Feria

12noon Requiem Mass – Mary Rose Garston
7pm John Joyce & family

Thursday 9 May

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

12noon Turner & Young families Int.

Friday 10 May

Easter Feria

6pm Mary McLean RIP

Saturday 11 May

Easter Feria

11:00am Issa Otu Int.
6:00pm Rocco Savino RIP

Sunday 12 May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

8am People of the Parish
9.30am Florrie Baggayan Int.
11am Joseph Kulanthai RIP
12.30pm Kitty Cahill RIP

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Turner and Young families

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 There is an increase in society through media, internet and so on, promoting what are commonly known as New Age Therapies. These include Reiki, Tai Chi, and Yoga. These are based on eastern philosophies, impersonal energies, are self-centred, promote self salvation and give rise to occult powers. These practices totally contradict our Christian beliefs. Christian salvation comes through faith in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is developed through a direct personal relationship with God and people. Avoid these practices, as well as fortune telling, ouija boards, lucky crystals, angel charms etc. Please don't fall into the trap of 'it's harmless or just a bit of fun.' *To be continued.*

Life Ascending Group Meeting after midday Mass on Tuesday 7 May in the Parish Centre.

CWL Invitation to their meeting on 14 May at 2pm in the Parish Centre, for a talk from a lady about living with a disability. Refreshments provided. All welcome.

SVP Sponsored Bike Ride - 18th May 2024 We are still looking for young parishioners to join us for our 20 miles sponsored bike ride to raise funds for the SVP Soup Kitchen. Please contact Paul Montgomery on 07887 726061 for details. More importantly we need your sponsorship! Please donate in the following ways via our Just Giving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/page/1713938100766> or via the collection buckets at the back of the Church.

Side Entrance to Church & Parish Centre This can be used. If you notice any fallen masonry, please report immediately to Fr Gerard or Fr Tim.

Pilgrimage to Fatima 8 September 2024 see noticeboard. Contact parish office asap limited spaces available.

Holy Rood SVP Welcome Space Not this week

Cost of Living Crisis- Supporting our Brothers & Sisters The SVP have a number of initiatives to provide support to families and individuals effected. If you need confidential help, please speak to the priests.

*Dear Lord,
When I'm tired and weary give me rest..
When I'm weak, You be my strength;
When I'm disappointed, help me to put my trust in You,
When I'm hurting, please heal me,
When I lost sight of life, restore Your spirit within me; and
When things seem impossible, Let Your will be done.*