

Holy Rood Catholic Church

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
10am-1pm & 1.30pm-3.30pm

Office Location: Percy Road, WD18 0QA

Parish Priest: Fr Gerard O'Brien

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

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Seventh Sunday of Easter

12 May 2024

You shall be my witnesses!

*A reflection on the English Martyrs by Bishop Nicholas Hudson
(Auxiliary of Westminster Diocese)*

One of the treasures of the English College in Rome is an atlas; an old atlas. It is dated 1570; and it is beautiful. The English College opened just nine years later; so that atlas must have been bought to show the students where to go once they got back home.

These students had come to Rome for just one reason: to go back home; to return to England and Wales, where Queen Elizabeth had banned seminaries and banned the Mass.

At great risk to themselves and after years of preparation in Rome, they would make their way back to England to bring the sacraments to Catholics up and down the land who yearned for Penance and Mass and to celebrate Baptism and Confirmation of their young ones.

The walls of the English College were emblazoned with images of English martyrs going right back to the time of our proto-martyr, St Alban, St George, patron of our land, St Boniface, St Edmund King of East Anglia, St Thomas of Canterbury, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More, and countless others.

These images reminded the students, as they remind seminarians today, that they belonged to a long line of witnesses.

Rome was not the only college where this tradition was celebrated and men offered themselves generously for the mission. Douai, Rheims, St Omers, Lisbon, Valladolid; all boasted English colleges. There were Benedictines, Carthusians, Franciscans and many other Religious preparing as well to shepherd the Lord's flock

on English soil. It is no exaggeration to say that, without the courage of these Tudor martyrs, there might have been no Catholic Church remaining in England today.

Update on Abortion Law The Leader of the House of Commons, Penny Mordaunt, informs that Report Stage of the Criminal Justice Bill is going to be on Wednesday 15 May. This means we have 2 days until the biggest battle on abortion in a generation. On Wednesday, MPs have the opportunity to vote on two pro-life changes to the law - one amendment tabled by Caroline Ansell MP to lower the abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks - and another tabled by Liam Fox MP that would bring the abortion time limit for babies with Down's syndrome in line with the time limit for babies that do not have disabilities (abortion for children with Down's syndrome is, shockingly, currently legal right up to birth). MPs will also have the opportunity to vote on two extreme, abortion up to birth amendments, that have been tabled by pro-abortion MPs Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson. Many lives are at stake here. Actions you take ahead of these votes, such as writing to your MP, will play a big part in persuading MPs to vote the right way. If you haven't already emailed your MP asking them to oppose the abortion up to birth amendments, you can write to them using our easy-to-use tool on the Right to Life website <https://righttolife.org.uk> It takes just a few moments. And of course, most importantly, please pray for the pre-born child and their families. St Joseph, pray for us.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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

Monday 13 May

Easter Feria

8.30am Anna Gill & Bridget Hill
12noon Michael Kelly RIP

Tuesday 14 May

Saint Matthias

8.30am Daphne Downing RIP
No 12 noon Mass -- Deanery Meeting

Wednesday 15 May

Easter Feria

12noon Filomena Fiore RIP anniv.

Thursday 16 May

Easter Feria

No Mass today

Friday 17 May

Easter Feria

6pm Daphne Downing RIP

Saturday 18 May

Easter Feria

11:00am Daphne Downing RIP
6:00pm Lizzy Thomas & A V Thomas RIP anniv.

Sunday 19 May

PENTECOST SUNDAY

8am People of the Parish
9.30am Deceased Baggayan families
11am Jai Guya-Persaud RIP anniv.
12.30pm Nora O'Connor RIP

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Michael Kelly RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION

Tuesday 9am-**10.30am**; 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 Philosophy of Yoga The great masters of yoga consistently proclaim that yoga is independent of all religions and will fit any creed. Yoga practices can be followed, they say, with equal benefit by the Hindu, the Muslim, the Buddhist, the Taoist, the free-thinker and the Catholic. Yoga, they insist, is founded on an ancient wisdom upon which all religions are based. However, the guru says to the disciple as (s)he takes the first halting steps along the yogic path: Go and verify their truth through your own experience. It is the direct experience of the supernatural world which yoga provides that makes it so attractive to people in the West, many of whom have been starved of religious experience. However, there is one major problem with making such experience the touchstone of truth. The answers provided by yoga experience and which are in accord with Hindu philosophy, for the most part, flatly contradict the answers revealed by Jesus Christ and entrusted to His Church. *To be cont...*

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

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

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 - 18 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 via our Just Giving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/page/1713938100766>

St Joseph's Carpenters Park Fr Gerard is supporting this parish following the recent death of Fr John. This will affect the running of Holy Rood. Please limit emails and telephone calls where possible. Please make sure all emails are polite and do not expect instant responses. All requests are prioritised and will be responded to asap.

*Faith doesn't always take you out of the problem.
Faith takes you through the problem.
Faith doesn't always take away the pain.
Faith gives you the ability to handle the pain.
Faith doesn't always take you out of the storm.
Faith calms you in the midst of the storm.*