Holy Rood Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-3pm
Office Location: Percy Road, WD18 0QA
Charity No. 233699
CCTV operating in Church and on-site 24 hrs

Parish Priest: Fr Gerard O'Brien
Assistant Priest: Fr Tim Mangatal
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TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 4 October 2026

Pope Leo's visit to France No doubt you will have seen some of the coverage of the 4 day visit last week-end. I had the privilege of being one of 800,000 people celebrating Holy Mass in the centre of Paris on Saturday. It is hard to describe how magnificent the Mass, and indeed the whole event was surrounding, by like-minded Catholics. I was delighted to receive Holy Communion, which I never thought possible, with the amount of people present. On the previous evening, Friday, 8000 clergy and seminarians gathered in the newly restored Notre-Dame Cathedral for Vespers (Evening Prayer). 300,000 people lined the streets outside to greet Pope Leo. In the evening, 80,000 young people gathered for a vigil with Pope Leo in Stade de France, the largest stadium in France. The vigil consisted of testimonies, music, performances and a display of French saints. There have been so many over the years. Pope Leo responded to questions and encouraged the young faithful to follow Christ, without fear, reminding all that the light of the Spirit enlightens and comforts. The faith, prayer and witness of the young people was a credit to France and the Church. Pope Leo then went onto Lourdes, first visiting and praying at the Grotto, entrusting the whole of France to the virgin Mary. On Sunday he celebrated Mass with 150,000 pilgrims and visited the sick. On Monday, Pope Leo travelled to St Stephens Cathedral, in Metz, Eastern France, where 35,000 turned up to greet him and celebrate Mass. Pope Leo delivered many messages to the people of France and of course these apply to each one of us. It is easy to get caught in a bubble of Holy Rood and Watford, but the Church goes beyond our boundaries.

It is estimated that 1.3 million attended the events last weekend. The police were applauded for their support and kindness. As they worked, they too witnessed the joy of events. It was highlighted in social media, that throughout the weekend, and in such an angry world, no cars were set on fire, no police officer attacked. No looting. No protests. Everything was peaceful.

There is much for us to learn from Pope Leo's visit and I will endeavour to cover the highlights in time. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Pope Leo could visit us here in the UK? Let us pray for this intention. God bless you all. **Father Gerard.**

Prisoners' Sunday? Prisoners' Sunday is the national Catholic day of prayer and action for prisoners and their families. It is a moment to reflect on the lives of those affected by imprisonment — those in prison, their children and families, and all who struggle with the lasting impact of justice system involvement. It is an invitation to respond with compassion, prayer and practical support. **Why this matters.** Prisons are in crisis. Too many people are held in overcrowded, unsafe conditions. Too many leave prisons with no home, no income and no support.

Behind every person in prison is a family, often children, trying to cope, many struggling to get by.

Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust) is there for all those in need. Last year, with the help of parishes like yours: We supported **over 485,000 prison visits**, including nearly 100,000 for children and young people. We awarded **almost 600 emergency grants** to families in crisis. We worked in **over half the prisons in England and Wales**, supporting prisoners to maintain or rebuild the relationships that provide the foundation for lasting change. We offer hope, dignity and the chance of a fresh start.

As President of Pact, the national Catholic charity for people in prison and their families, I invite you to join with me in supporting this year's Prisoners' Sunday, on 11th October. Pact supports people throughout England and Wales, whatever their beliefs. Pact's work is varied and includes care for children whose parents have been sent to prison, as well as offering practical assistance to people leaving prison, who are trying to make a fresh start and put their past behind them.

Pact workers can be found inside many prisons, courts and in the community. An important element of Pact's work is to support prisoners and their families to maintain their family bonds, recognising the anxiety, isolation and perhaps hardship they may be experiencing while a loved one is in prison. This work has been hugely influential, and it is now recognised that it is one of the most effective means to reduce the risk of re-offending by former prisoners.

In the gospel, Jesus reminds us to show concern for prisoners: 'I was in prison and you visited me'. Pact continues to rely strongly on the support of Catholic parishioners. I encourage you to play your part in its important work, whether through prayer, volunteering or financial support, putting the values of the Gospel into action, and working for the common good of all. **Archbishop Richard Moth.**

There will be a brief talk at end of Mass and a collection via buckets contactless devices. Thank you**.**

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38. Please pray daily for vocations to the priesthood.

MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday 4 October
+TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Pablo De Peralta RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11am Deceased members of Hynes Family
12.30pm Eithne Mullany RIP
2.15pm Polish Mass
Monday 5 October
Feria
12noon Ania, Henryk Wichlacz &nd departed family
Tuesday 6 October
Feria
8.30am Joy Mary Isenberg RIP
12noon Erma Fernanza RIP
Wednesday 7 October
Our Lady of the Rosary
12noon Paddy Fleming RIP
Thursday 8 October
Feria
12noon *Requiem Mass – Sabastiano Dimaria RIP*
Friday 9 October
Saint John Henry Newman
6pm Jim & Madeline Coleman Int.
Saturday 10 October
Feria
11am Celeste St. Rose Int.
6pm Vocations to the Priesthood
Sunday 11 October
+TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Pablo De Peralta RIP
9.30am Inioluwa Abidoye Ints.
11am People of the Parish
12.30pm Domenico Santarsiero RIP
2.15pm Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Maria Jose & Domenico Santarsiero RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION
Tuesday 9am-11.15am; Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
Friday 6.30pm-7pm

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK & LAST RITES By request

BAPTISMS Please contact the Parish Office 01923 224085

Legacies These present a huge opportunity for our parish. To find out more, please see the leaflets at the back of the church. Further information can be found on the website, or by contacting the Legacy Coordinator at the diocese. | legacies@rcdow.org.uk | 020 7798 9025.

Weddings If you are planning to get married, the diocese requires 6 months' notice, wherever you are getting married, locally or abroad. Please do not make any formal arrangements with venues or families, until permission has been granted by the Chancery Office, at Westminster. Often people request a letter from us, with the wedding day already planned. There is no such thing as a single letter. Full paperwork has to be completed, involving, along with a marriage course, civil paperwork and a visit to a solicitor. Please share this information with family and friends. The parish and the diocese will not be liable for any expenses incurred before permission is granted.

Journeying with the Gospels Continues Every Tuesday evening, 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre. Access is via Percy Road. WD18 0QA.

Growing in Faith Together We are not accepting applications Sacraments of First Confession & First Holy Communion preparation. Information will follow in time.

SVP Tea & Coffee Morning after 11am Mass. Cakes, biscuits, hot and soft drinks. Do pop in to meet and socialise with fellow parishioners. All are welcome. The SVP continues to be blessed with willing volunteers, from our Parish. If you would like to find out more and how we share the love of Christ with those we help, come and speak to one of our members. The total donated to the food bank, organised by SVP, was £263.00. Thank you.

Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress Procession of the Blessed Sacrament Next Saturday, 10th October from Southwark Cathedral, along the South Bank of the Thames, to Westminster Cathedral. (France stepped out in their thousands last week-end to witness their faith.) Tell your children & grandchildren. The procession will begin at 3pm and it would be wonderful for as many as possible to join us for this public witness to our faith. Procession will finish at 5pm with Solemn Benediction at Westminster Cathedral. Mass will follow at 6 pm. Then at 8pm, the first of three Holy Hours will begin led by the Youth Ministries and other groups. If you wish to attend the Holy Hours and all night-vigil you must to register at https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/adoremus/. See Notice board for full details. Fr Tim & Fr Gerard will attend the Procession. **We will meet at Watford Junction at 1pm, for 13.16 train** or you can make your own way to St Georges Cathedral, Lambeth Rd, London SE1 7HY, but please contact Parish Office if you intend to go and we can co-ordinate times. We can bring our Parish Banner.

Halloween or rather All Hallows In preparation for the up-coming liturgies, can the children start to think about which saint they will dress for Mass. We had some amazing Our Lady of Fatimas last year. This will help ensure we keep our Catholic Roots, as Halloween is actually a religious festival.

Holy Water container in the baptistry has been repaired and is back. Please ensure you all have Holy Water in your homes..

Rumours There are no plans for Fr Tim to leave the parish. The Vicar General at Westminster, is in charge of appointments on behalf of the Archbishop. Moves usually take place in September, occasionally at other times. I have plenty more work for Father Tim to do. There are no plans for me to leave either. (Sorry.) Please continue to pray for us and indeed all priests. God bless you all. **Father Gerard.**

Love is something that no flood can quench, no torrents drown. Were a man to offer all the wealth of his house to buy love, contempt is all he would purchase.

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38. Please pray daily for vocations to the priesthood.