Holy Rood Catholic Church

Holy Rood Rectory, Exchange Road WD18 0PJ
Tel: 01923 224085
Parish Email: watford@rcdow.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford
Instagram: holyroodparishwatford
Web: www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford
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
Deacon: Rev Neville Dyckhoff
nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk (☎Opt 2)
Parish Administrator: Annette Rahilly
Parish Bookkeeper: Jacqueline Faria
Safeguarding Representatives:
Vanessa Villanueva
watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Chidi Odogwu
watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Watford Hospital Chaplaincy: 01923 244366

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 11 October 2026

Pope Leo's visit to France - France, and indeed the world are still celebrating the recent triumphant visit of Pope Leo

1.3 million attended the events the celebrations over the four day. visit. 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. A stark contrast to the riots happening in France at the moment. We mast pray for this situation to be resolved speedily.

Pope Leo shared many reflections over the 4 day visit for the people of France, but equally apply to all of us and the whole world.

The Ethical Challenges of Artificial Intelligence peaking at the Élysée Palace and UNESCO headquarters, the Pope raised deep existential concerns about technological progress. He cautioned against "losing our humanity amid a paradise of machines," advocating for strict moral regulation and human oversight to ensure AI remains a tool for the common good rather than profit-driven exploitation.

Defence of the Right to Life Addressing French civil authorities, Pope Leo firmly defended the inviolable dignity of human life. He rejected what he termed "false compassion" and criticised trends such as assisted dying, surrogacy, and genetic manipulation, affirming that the protection of life from inception to natural death is the foundation of all other human rights.

Peace, Forgiveness, and European Unity In the border city of Metz, a region heavily scarred by past wars, the Pope honoured European founding father Robert Schuman. He urged Europe to reject the "illusion of rearmament" and the "desire for domination" driving today's global conflicts. Celebrating Mass at Metz Cathedral, he emphasised that choosing forgiveness and reconciliation over revenge is a sign of spiritual strength, not weakness.

Open Witness: Amidst growing adult baptisms in France, he encouraged Catholics to step out of traditional discretion and let their faith overflow to refresh society rather than keeping it to themselves.

- **Rejecting Religious Violence:** In an interfaith meeting, he forcefully stated that using God's name to justify violence or oppression is a desecration, calling on all religious leaders to build cross-border paths to peace.
- **Addressing Church Abuse:** During a stop at the Marian Shrine in Lourdes, he met privately with seven survivors of clerical abuse, reiterating the Church's unwavering commitment to absolute vigilance and listening. The visit concluded with massive turnouts, including a record-breaking outdoor Mass at the Place de la Concorde that drew an estimated 800,000 faithful, underscoring an unexpected spiritual revival in the historically secular nation.
-

Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust). Today is Prisoners' Sunday. This is the National Catholic day of prayer and action for prisoners and their families. Behind every person in prison is a family, often children, trying to cope, many struggling to get by. Thank you for your very generous donations last weekend. Contactless devices are still available for one more weekend if you wish to make an offering and there still may be some envelopes available if you can gift aid.

When you are receiving Holy Communion on the hand, please consume it immediately while you are in front of the minister. Do not take it with you to your seat. For those who are not receiving Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. This is to be indicated by placing one or both arms on your chest. Parents you are responsible to ensure your child indicates clearly that they are to receive a blessing. If the priest or the Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister are unsure, they will give a blessing.

When coming to Church, we need to dress appropriately as we are in a place of worship. Please make sure that you not wearing anything with a low neckline, sleeveless garments which expose the shoulders, clothing that exposes the knees or upper legs (whether sitting or standing), clothing that exposes the stomach or back, or clothing made of see-through material; also avoid excessively tight clothing.

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

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 11 October
+TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am	Pablo De Peralta RIP
9.30am	Inioluwa Joshua Abidoye Ints.
11am	People of the Parish
12.30pm	Domenico Santarsiero RIP
2.15pm	Polish Mass

Monday 12 October
Feria

10am	*Requiem Mass – Nuala Ausden RIP*
12noon	Bill Gallagher RIP

Tuesday 13 October
Saint Edward the Confessor

8.30am	Bobby Coleman RIP anniv.
	No 12noon Mass – Deanery meeting

Wednesday 14 October
Feria

12noon	Inioluwa Joshua Abidoye Ints.

Thursday 15 October
Saint Teresa of Jesus

12noon	Wong Hang Bor Mary RIP

Friday 16 October
Feria

6pm	Ania, Henryk Wichlacz & departed family

Saturday 17 October
Saint Ignatius of Antioch

11am	Antonia Elli RIP
6pm	Susan Gabriel RIP

Sunday 18 October
+TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am	Ray Haske RIP
9.30am	Ernesto Omagtang Snr.
11am	Emma Morrison Int.
12.30pm	People of the Parish
2.15pm	Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Pablo De Peralta RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION
Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm this week

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.

Catechism Corner Getting the Most out of Mass

PREPARE: Arrive early, gather your thoughts in quiet, read through the readings, then be still and open your heart and mind to God in prayer. Remember to always give thanks to God and to be patient in prayer. In addition to your own prayers, please remember to pray for everyone and those who have no one to pray for them.

PARTICIPATE: Join in the singing, the responses, the prayers and listen attentively to the Readings and the Homily.

BE RESPECTFUL: Don't use your phone, don't eat in church (except babies), and don't chat needlessly, we come to church to raise our hearts and minds to God. But please do feel free to socialise and chat after Mass. Tea and coffee is served in the parish centre on Sundays after 11am Mass.

Halloween or rather All Hallows In preparation for the up-coming liturgies, can the children plan 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, All Hallows Eve, 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.**

LUMINISCENCE, Westminster Cathedral, London Experience a stunning 360° video projection concert inside Westminster Cathedral. Hear the story of London narrated by Hugh Bonneville, star of Paddington and Downton Abbey. Enjoy live performances from the acclaimed Lux Aeterna choir. See Westminster Cathedral's architecture brought to life through spectacular visual projections. Discover a specially commissioned script written by BAFTA and Olivier Award winner Tim Whitnall. Experience a production that has already captivated more than 2 million people worldwide. Discover Westminster Cathedral like never before. After extraordinary success across Europe and a hugely popular UK debut in Manchester, LUMINISCENCE arrives in London with a dazzling audio-visual production created specifically for Westminster Cathedral. As projections sweep across the vast interior, you'll be taken on a journey through London's history and the story of one of the city's most important cathedrals. Using state-of-the-art video mapping and spatial sound technology, every surface. Suitable for all ages. Whether you'd like the ultimate panoramic view or the full orchestral experience, there are several ways to enjoy LUMINISCENCE London. See poster on notice board and book via LUMINISCENCE.COM. Fr Tim & Fr Gerard have been. It is excellent. The seating at the back of the Cathedral have the best views, but will cost more. It is a great chance to support and fund our Mother Church.

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.