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
Deacon: Rev Neville Dyckhoff
nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk (☎Opt 2)
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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18 October 2026

Eucharistic Congress and The Eucharistic Procession
The day went very last Saturday, with many thousands travelling from all over the country to attend Mass, talks, Benediction, the Eucharistic Procession and the all night Vigil in Westminster Cathedral. It was a blessing to see Holy Rood Parishioners. It is incredible to be able to walk through the centre of London, on streets that have, in effect been closed to let Jesus through, from Lambeth to Westminster, past Parliament and be met with great interest and respect from those we passed. By the very fact that we are baptised, we are all called to be evangelisers, to imitate Christ, in what we say and what we do. And joining the procession, and indeed the March for life in September, is putting our faith into action. We must all be proud to be Catholic, and let people know this, in a firm but pastoral way. We must not hide our faith. Fr Tim and I were very proud to be part of last Saturday's celebration of the true presence of Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist. Not a sign, or a symbol. For if it was, it would not be perfect, but unfinished, imperfect, unreliable. But the Eucharist is perfect whole and real. You were all included in the prayers. Two of our young adult parishioners were present, one recently received into the Catholic Church and one preparing to be received. This is their experience of Saturday. God bless them both, as they continue their faith journey with our Lord. Fr Gerard.

'The Eucharistic Procession We were both incredibly blessed to take part in the Eucharistic Procession from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to Westminster Cathedral. As we walked together, singing hymns and joining in prayer, we were reminded of the beauty of being united as one body in Christ. Although we came from different walks of life, we walked together with one faith, one hope and one love, bearing witness to Our Lord.

One of the most moving moments was witnessing members of the public stop, look and listen as the procession passed. It was a beautiful reminder of how we are called to be a light in the world, and what a privilege it was to share something of Christ's light with others.

All-Night Vigil We were also blessed to take part in the all-night Eucharistic Vigil at Westminster Cathedral. It was a truly unforgettable night; a beautiful, deeply moving and healing experience, filled with heartfelt prayer and soul-stirring worship music that lifted our hearts to God.

Spending the night in Adoration gave us a precious opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and simply be still in the presence of Our Lord. There is something profoundly intimate about adoring Christ through the quiet hours of the night, as though time stands still and nothing else matters but being with Him. In those precious moments, we experienced a profound sense of peace, simply gazing upon Our Lord in awe, gratitude and wonder.

The first three Holy Hours were beautifully led by the Westminster Youth Ministry teams, who invited us to reflect upon the lives and Eucharistic devotion of St Clare of Assisi, St Francis of Assisi and St Carlo Acutis. It was especially heart-warming to witness so many young people coming together in faith.

This experience will forever hold a special place in our hearts. We came together to honour and adore Our Lord, but left with our hearts even more deeply drawn to Him. We hope and pray that sharing our experience will inspire others to come and join us next time to encounter the beauty of Christ.'

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.

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 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
Monday 19 October
Feria
12noon Rosa Bailo RIP
Tuesday 20 October
Feria
8.30am Adeline Thanksgiving
12noon Abiodun Abidoye Int.
Wednesday 21 October
Feria
12noon Mark Ryan RIP
Thursday 22 October
Feria
12noon No Mass today – Church open 8 – 2pm
Friday 23 October
Feria
6pm Filomena Micciché RIP
Saturday 24 October
Feria
11am Gladys Hurley RIP
6pm Marion Doherty RIP
Sunday 25 October
+THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Bernard & Annie Kelly RIP
9.30am Johnnie & Mary Coelho RIP
11am Julia, Bernard & Maria Bristoll RIP
12.30pm Teresa Mavis Davis RIP
2.15pm Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Teresa & Frank Donnelly RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION
Tuesday 9am-11.15am; 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.

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

Holy Souls The Catholic tradition of praying for the dead, often referred to as the Holy Souls in Purgatory or the Poor Souls, is rooted in the belief in Purgatory, a state of final purification for souls who die in God's grace and friendship, yet still need to attain the holiness necessary to enter heaven. November lists for the names of your beloved deceased, will be available next week, to be placed in our November Holy Souls chapel.

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 Fatima's 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.

Diary Dates
All Saints Day. Sunday 1 November. Usual Mass times.
All Souls Day Monday 2 November. Mass at 12n & 7.30pm.
Remembrance Sunday, 8 November. Usual Mass times.
Blessing of Graves Sunday 15 November, 3pm.Vicarage Road & North Watford cemeteries.

Join us for a free game of pool Playing pool is a fun and rewarding game and can be enjoyed by parents and kids, and adults of all ages. It doesn't matter how good you are or if you have never played it before. It's all about having fun and enjoying the banter! It is open to parishioners of Holy Rood Church. If you are interested in attending a session at Shots Pool Hall on the High Street either on a Saturday or during the half term, please register your name by texting Paul on 07887 726061. Young adults from 13 years old can attend by themselves subject to parent consent. Sessions will be overseen by members of the Parish/SVP and the event will be free. There will be a limit on numbers so please register as soon as possible.

Project Services Manager For the past two years, our Catholic Teaching Internship Programme has enabled students to experience the joy and challenge of working in Catholic schools while discerning whether teaching might be their vocation. We are pleased to announce that applications are now open for our 2026-2027 cohort, the third and final year of the programme's current funding phase. Through a paid three-week placement, students in their second year can gain first-hand experience of life in a Catholic school, receive mentoring from experienced educators, and explore how their faith and talents might be used in service of young people. Please see poster on noticeboard.

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