Holy Rood Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-2.30pm
Office Location: Percy Road, WD18 0QA
Charity No. 233699
CCTV operating in Church and on-site 24 hrs

Parish Priest: Father Gerard O'Brien
Assistant Priest: Father Tim Mangatal
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THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25 October 2026

All Saints Day is a Catholic celebration when we attend Mass and is a holy day of obligation. We commemorate all known and unknown saints. Traditions include special Masses and prayer. All Saints' Day is considered a solemnity, a most important liturgical day, and is followed by All Souls' Day.

A day when we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, a celebration honouring all men and women who have entered Heaven, who led extraordinarily holy lives on earth and that the Church has canonized as saints. These individuals honoured God in a variety of ways, through deep prayer and mystical union, through enduring martyrdom or other forms of religious persecution and through acts of service, such as caring for the needy or teaching the faith. Some saints were powerful preachers or miracle workers. Others were leaders, some lived in obscurity, and still others experienced exile or made significant personal sacrifices for their faith. In various ways, these saints glorified God during their lifetimes. By honouring this host of saintly witnesses, we honour and glorify God through their lives. By honouring them, we honour Him Who made them holy.

November Holy Souls. The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all the faithful who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. St. Paul warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, "even as others who have no hope … For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven … and the dead who are in Christ shall rise." The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Our tradition of offering Masses in November for our deceased will continue. Envelopes are available for you to include the lists of your loved ones who have died and any offering you would like to make. St John's Chapel is being dedicated to the Holy Souls and special candles can be lit for the deceased. We pray especially at this time for those who have no one to pray for them. There is a folder in St John's Chapel of funerals that have taken place in the last year, so that we can remember and pray for them. As Catholics, we have our tradition of celebrating a Requiem Mass when someone dies and the purpose of this Mass is to pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased. This is a most important gift we can give to those who have died, who are on the most important journey of their lives, one that will hopefully end when they cast their eyes on the face of God. The deceased still need us. They are still in communion with us. When we offer a Mass for the deceased, we are reminded there can be ***no more perfect, no more absolute, no more complete prayer*** than ***Christ's sacrifice***, which is made present in the sacrifice of the Mass. In November and at funerals we wear purple or black vestments to remind ourselves that no one is perfect and all need to be made perfect before we can meet God. And our prayers will help with this process.

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God.
Wisdom 3:1

A reflection from two young parishioners on the Eucharistic Congress - 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.'

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.

Please note change of Parish Office hours.

MASS INTENTIONS
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
Monday 26 October
Feria
12noon Jean Dey RIP 1st anniv.
Tuesday 27 October
Feria
8.30am Ania & Henryk Wichlacz & departed family
12noon Georgina Summers RIP
Wednesday 28 October
Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles
8.30am Joy Mary Isenberg RIP
12noon St. Rose family Thanksgiving
Thursday 29 October
Blessed Martyrs of Douai
12noon Joe Forde RIP
Friday 30 October
Feria
6pm Ania & Henryk Wichlacz & departed family
Saturday 31 October
Feria
11am Souls of the departed family of Adeline
6pm Georgina Lim Int.
Sunday 1 November
+ALL SAINTS
8am Holy Souls
9.30am Ania & Henryk Wichlacz & departed family
11am People of the Parish
12.30pm Holy Souls
2.15pm Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Dermot Cribbin 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

Holy Souls Prayer

"Eternal rest grant unto him/her [or *them*], O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her [or *them*]. May he/she [or *their soul*] and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."
"All-powerful and merciful God, we commend to you [Name], your servant. In your mercy and love, blot out the sins he/she has committed through human weakness. In this world he/she has died: let him/her live with you forever.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

GIFT – Growing in Faith Together Some of our young parishioners have prepared some writings and artwork on various saints. Please take a look at their hard work on the noticeboard by Our Lady's Chapel. And keep them and their families in your daily prayers as they prepare for the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion.

Church Floor Renovation At last, the long overdue, renovation of the church wooden floor will be carried out. Some minor repairs and then special sealant. This work will begin on Monday 9th November and will be complete for the following Sunday Masses, (incl. Vigil.) It is so important to keep our church in good repair. The weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Parish Centre. No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament that week. Urgent Sacrament of Confession by appointment.

Sunday Missals If you would like a Sunday Missal for yourselves, these can be purchased via the Parish Office.

Our beautiful church features in the new Tesco/Deliveroo advert. You might want to take a look on YouTube

Halloween or rather All Hallows In preparation for the up-coming liturgies, can the children plan which saint they will dress for Mass On All Saints Day. 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, which is a fun and rewarding game, 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! Open to parishioners of Holy Rood Church. If interested in attending a session at Shots Pool Hall on the High Street either on a Saturday or during the half term, please text to 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.

Baptisms We welcome Clara, Michael & Oliver who were baptised recently in Holy Rood, praying that their families will keep the faith and pass it on.

Ascent Group Knit & Chat, Tuesday, 27 October, 1pm, Parish Centre. Monthly meeting on Tuesday, 3 November, 1pm - bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Friday 20 November, visit to St Albans Cathedral for midday Mass, followed by refreshments in the Refectory. Contact Winnie Brady on 01923 334998 for more information.

Devotion and Pilgrimages in the Catholic Faith Join us at St Helens Parish Hall for a special series of talks exploring devotion, pilgrimages and evangelisation in the Catholic faith. Please see noticeboard. For full details.

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