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-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
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

+ ALL SAINTS 1 November 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

David Reynolds This week end we welcome David. He is a seminarian for the Diocese of Westminster and will be with us for the academic year. Please make him welcomed and pray for him.

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.

Volunteering Opportunity for Young Catholics (18–34) Caritas Westminster, in partnership with the Irish Chaplaincy, is offering free training in prayerful accompaniment, listening, and pastoral and spiritual care. The programme includes four sessions (two online and two in person), preparing volunteers to visit older people in care homes, offering companionship and support. No previous experience or Irish background is required. An opportunity to put faith into action and make a difference. Please register interest by Friday 6 November. The programme to begin later in November. To register your interest, please click here - forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mpyr8gYhSr For more information please email cianofarrell@rcdow.org.uk

St Teresa of Calcutta 'Reminders - that smiles begin love, peace stems from remembering our bond to each other, peace requires love rather than weapons, and changing the world starts with loving your family at home.'

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 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

Monday 2 November
All SOULS' DAY

12noon	Pablo De Peralta RIP
7pm	Holy Souls

Tuesday 3 November
Feria

8.30am	Patrick Anthony Ward RIP
	No 12noon Mass

Wednesday 4 November
Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop

12noon	Renwick Clarke-Gonsalves RIP anniv.

Thursday 5 November
Feria

12noon	Abidoye family Ints.

Friday 6 November
Feria

6pm	Iva Pantaleon RIP

Saturday 7 November
Feria

11am	Holy Souls
6pm	Mario R. Savaglio RIP

Sunday 8 November
+THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am	Frank McGuigan RIP
9.30am	People of the Parish
11am	War Dead
12.30pm	Holy Souls
2.15pm	Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Renwick Clarke-Gonsalves 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

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.

Scams Please check your bank accounts regularly to see if any unusual payments are being withdrawn, often small amounts. It is very easy to sign up or be signed up, unwittingly, to regular monthly payments. These often begin after an on-line purchase. If you discover any, contact your bank immediately.

Please note change of Parish Office hours.

Car Key found in church. Please contact office.

Catechism Corner: Why is a fragment of the Host placed inside the Chalice? This action, known as the *fraction* holds rich theological meaning. It primarily signifies the unity of Christ's Body and Blood, which were separated in death and are now gloriously reunited in His resurrection. Although Christ is fully present under both Eucharistic species, the separate consecration of bread and wine highlights His sacrificial death, while the mingling of the Host and the chalice visibly affirms the living and resurrected Christ (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 2011, §83).

Diary Dates

Remembrance Sunday 8th November.
Blessing of Graves Sunday 15 November, 3pm Vicarage Road & North Watford cemeteries.
St Anthony's School Mass & Carol Service – Friday 4th December, 12 noon. All welcome.
Advent Parish Confession Friday 18th December, 6.30pm.

Join us for a free game of pool, 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 before. It's all about having fun and enjoying the banter. Open to parishioners of Holy Rood Church. Shots Pool Hall on the High Street, on a Saturday, please text to Paul on 07887 726061. Young adults from 13 years old can attend by themselves with parents' consent. Sessions will be overseen by members of the Parish/SVP and are free. 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 Meet Tuesday, 3 November, 1pm. Bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Friday 20 November, visit to St Albans Cathedral for midday Mass, followed by refreshments 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. please email cianofarrell@rcdow.org.uk

Remembrance Sunday is an annual day of commemoration in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth held on the second Sunday in November. It honours military and civilian service members and their families who have served, suffered, or lost their lives in World War I, World War II, and all subsequent military conflicts.

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.

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.