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
Deacon: Rev Neville Dyckhoff
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+ THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8 November 2026

We will remember them It is hard to escape the iconic flower associated with bloodshed, sacrifice, duty and honour: the poppy. We see it worn by many in our towns and cities, on our television screens and in churches and memorials during the month of November where, too, it is our custom, to remember all the Holy Souls and pray fervently for their peaceful repose. Wearing the poppy is not a fashionable trend nor an indication of one's political alliance, rather, it is an acknowledgement of all those service men and women who courageously gave their lives in both World Wars 1914-1918 & 1939-1945 respectively.

Our Blessed Lord tells us, his disciples: *"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*

The service men and women; those whose names we know and those only known to God did just that. What is more, they did it not only for their 'friends' but for strangers; for generations of peoples that would come after them. They did so, with the purpose of bringing about peace.

The poppy, rightly, is the colour red. We know from our liturgy that the colour red is used on Good Friday as well as in commemoration of the martyrs who gave their lives in defence of the Faith and the Gospel. This colour, then, is certainly the colour of sacrifice; the colour of blood.

Today, as we know well, wars are not a thing of the past. However, there is some consolation that we are not in a World War, but, needless to say, war should always be the last resort after other avenues have been exhausted.

Remembrance Sunday, above all, is a time to pray for the repose of the souls of all who gave generously; both in service and with their lives. We should also keep in our prayers those men and women currently serving at home and abroad for the same aim as their predecessors: peace.

Thank God for all those who laid down their lives; they shall not be forgotten, we will remember them.

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. 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. 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, always looking forward, not back. This is a most important gift we can give to those who have died. 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.

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

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

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

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.'

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

Church Floor Renovation begins on Monday. Weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Parish Centre. No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this week. Urgent Sacrament of Confession by appointment.

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 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

Monday 9 November
+THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

12noon	Antonia Negri & Patrizzio Negri RIP

Tuesday 10 November
Saint Leo the Great

8.30am	Joseph McElhatton RIP
	No 12noon Mass – Deanery meeting

Wednesday 11 November
Saint Martin of Tours

12noon	Anthony Brunton RIP

Thursday 12 November
Saint Josaphat

12noon	Pablo De Peralta RIP

Friday 13 November
Feria

6pm	Jim Dowdall RIP anniv. No Exposition or confessions

Saturday 14 November
Feria

11am	Trombetta Giovanni, Baccino & Giovanni Secondina RIP
6pm	Constance Noel RIP

Sunday 15 November
+THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am	Pablo De Peralta RIP
9.30am	Inioluwa Joshua Abidoye Ints.
11am	Julia, Bernard & Maria Bristoll RIP
12.30pm	People of the Parish
2.15pm	Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Pablo De Peralta RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION
Not this week

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
Not this week, by appointment if urgent

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.

Children and Saints It was amazing to see so many children dress as saints for All Saints Day and more importantly, research carried out learning about the saints. Thank you and God bless.

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).

GIFT – Growing in Faith Together Congratulations to our young parishioners who celebrated their First Confession last week-end. Please continue to keep our young parishioners 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.

Car Key found in church. Please contact office**.**

Devotion and Pilgrimages in the Catholic Faith Join us at St Helens Parish Hall. Please see noticeboard for full details.

Ascent Group Reminder Friday 20 November, visit to St Albans Cathedral for midday Mass, followed by lunch in the Refectory. Meet at the Lady Chapel inside the Cathedral. Contact Winnie Brady on 01923 334998 for more information. On Tuesday 1 December we shall meet in the Parish Centre at 1pm for an Advent Social and various activities including crafts, Secret Santa and festive food. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Third Party Collections

Stella Maris (Sea Farers)	£634.49
The Spiritans	£1,179.51
PACT (Prisoners' Sunday)	£799.54

Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

A prayer of petition for those affected by war

God of justice and peace,
We pray for those who have been injured
or disabled through war.
For those who have lost homes and security through conflict;
For those who have lost loved relatives in wars;
For those who face danger and take risks for peace;
For all those, especially children, caught up in current conflicts;
For refugees and all those in need of aid and other help.
God of encouragement and Saviour of the despairing,
Comfort those who remember past sacrifices and
Guide us in building a just and peaceful community for all.
Amen.

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