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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+ THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15 November 2026

Repaid or Prepaid?

It is only mid-November, and already the world is telling us to get our gifts ready for Christmas. The lights are up, adverts have started, and Advent has not yet begun. As Catholics we understand the importance of another kind of giving: one the shops don't sell, and one in which we are all invited to participate this month.

By long tradition, November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for whom we pray. We are now about halfway through the month. The dead will not be putting anything on a Christmas list, and they cannot thank us for our prayers. The world around us is quick to count what it gets back, but here is a gift that cannot be repaid in a way that we can see. Giving without keeping score is something we easily forget to practise, but there is quiet joy to be found in praying for the Holy Souls.

So if we are already praying for the dead and attending Mass for them, let us keep going. If we haven't yet begun, it is not too late: the month is far from over. This Sunday afternoon we will stand at the graves of our loved ones, bless them, and pray for those who are buried there. It is a good place to begin, or to carry on.

Some churches have noticed fewer people coming to Mass on All Souls Day than they used to. That isn't true at Holy Rood, but it reminds us not to take for granted that others will pray for us when we have died. Whatever help we hope for from the living then, we can begin giving now to those who have gone before us.

For the rest of this month, think of as many names as you can of your deceased friends and family. Pray for them, and leave their names, with your offerings, in the Holy Souls chapel so that they might be remembered during our Holy Souls Masses throughout this month.

Let's be as generous as we can. It cannot be repaid directly, but it is, in a way, prepaid, for one day we shall be glad to be prayed for ourselves.

November Holy Souls. Our tradition of offering Masses in November for our deceased continues. 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.

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

Second collection – Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

Today's second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility.

Please give what you can afford using the envelopes or the contactless devices in the church. You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular gift and become a **Patron** by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at **rcdow.org.uk/SRP** – the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

Church Floor Renovation It is a delight to see the results of last week's renovation. I am sure we all agree, the floor looks fabulous and is a much-needed enhancement to our beautiful church. It is nice, for a change, to see something with your generous donations. So much is spent on vital, but hidden costs, like boiler repairs, electrics, plumbing, council tax etc. Of course, it goes without saying we all need to take care of the floor. Please be careful with wet umbrellas. These can stay in the porches or placed in a plastic bag. No food or drink. No chewing gum. Sadly, some has been found stuck under our lovely benches. I'm guessing this may be visitors, but it is just a horrible thing to do. It is so important that we invest in our church, keeping it as beautiful as possible. It is, after all, God's House. Everything we do, should be done -

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam -
To the greater Glory of God

Diary Dates

Blessing of Graves, today, 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

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

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 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

Monday 16 November
Saint Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop

12noon	Fe Ramboanga Thanksgiving

Tuesday 17 November
Feria

8.30am	Holy Souls
12noon	Peter & Albert Kelly RIP

Wednesday 18 November
Feria

12noon	Noel Joseph Thanksgiving

Thursday 19 November
Feria

12noon	Antony Mattathil RIP

Friday 20 November
Feria

6pm	Holy Souls

Saturday 21 November
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

11am	Perri & Savaglio families RIP
6pm	John Joseph Sullivan RIP

Sunday 22 November
+OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

8am	Joseph & Roselinda Nkemdirim thanksgiving
9.30am	People of the Parish
11am	Amelia Gabriel Int.
12.30pm	Melita Carvalho RIP
2.15pm	Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Ellen & Michael Sheehan RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION
Tuesday 9am-11.15am, Friday 6.30pm-7.15pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
Friday 6.30pm-7pm
Saturday 11.30am-12noon & 4.45pm-5.15pm
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.

Catechism Corner: What is liturgy? It is the official divine worship of the Church. Liturgy is not an event that depends on good ideas and great songs. No one makes or invents a liturgy. It is something living, that grew over thousands of years of faith. A Mass is a holy and venerable action. Liturgy becomes exciting when one senses that God himself is present under its sacred signs and its precious, often ancient prayers.

Our Youth Congratulations to our young parishioners who have recently celebrated the Sacrament of Confession for the first time. They continue with their catechesis, preparing to received Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. Challenging times ahead of them in an ever secular world.

St Joseph's Parent Support Group For parents of children of any age who have learning difficulties, meeting in parish centre on Friday 20 November at 11am.

SVP National Summer Raffle A big thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and contributed to the £1,650 raised by SVP Holy Rood. An incredible £108,235 was raised nationally to support the work of the SVP. The winning ticket numbers were 601018, 453038, 458960, 450007, 457117, 540090, 510788, 535111, 539265, 582943, 520472, 509133, 580493, 609979, 478543, 595895 and 504031.

SVP Holy Rood Children's Christmas Party - Sunday 13th December 2026: 1pm - 4pm This year's Children Christmas party will take place at the Holy Rood Parish Centre for children up to 11 years old, with the return of our special guest star Mr Marvel the Entertainer. Parents are welcome to either drop their children off or stay and have a drink, chat and a piece of cake during the show. Each child will receive a Christmas box full of goodies and a small gift. The event is free but please book in advance, sending Siobhan a WhatsApp or Text to 07929 490090, with names/ages of children by Wednesday 9 December, to cater for food and Christmas gifts. Please also specify any allergies/dietary requirements. If this year is anything like last year it should be a very noisy afternoon.

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.

"If you do not worship God, you worship something, and nine times out of ten it will be yourself."
Blessed Fulton Sheen.

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