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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+ OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 22 November 2026

Christus vincit, Christus regnat, Christus imperat.

Happy Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! This is the last Sunday of the Church year which means we focus on the final and glorious things to come. It also means that next Sunday is already the First Sunday of Advent.
When we say Jesus is King, we mean a few things. First, He is our Shepherd. As our Shepherd He desires to lead us personally as a loving father would. He wants to enter our lives personally, intimately and carefully, never imposing Himself but always offering Himself as our guide.

The difficulty with this is that it's very easy for us to reject this kind of kingship. As King, Jesus desires to lead every aspect of our lives and lead us in all things. He wants us to come to Him for everything and to become dependent upon Him always. But He will not impose this sort of kingship upon us. We must accept it freely and without reservation. When that happens, His Kingdom begins to become established within us and through us in the world.

But many do not recognize Him as King, so what about them? Should we "impose" God's law upon those who do not believe? The answer is both yes and no. First, there are some things we cannot impose. For example, we cannot force people to go to Mass each Sunday. This would hinder one's freedom to respond to the invitation. We know Jesus requires it of us for the good of our souls, but it must still be embraced freely. However, there are some things that we must "impose" upon others. The protection of the unborn, poor and vulnerable must be "imposed." The freedom of conscience must be written into our laws. The freedom to practice our faith openly within any institution must also be "imposed". And there are many other things we could list here.

What's important to point out, is that at the end of time, Jesus will return in all His glory and He will then establish His permanent and unending Kingdom. At that time, all people will see God as He is. Every knee will bend before the great King and all will know the truth. At that time, true justice will reign and every evil will be corrected. What a glorious day that will be. Love live Christ the King!

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
Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Your generosity means our sick and retired priests will receive the care and support they need.
If you haven't had the chance to make your donation, there is still time. You will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can donate online at **rcdow.org.uk/SRP** – look out for the 'QR Code' on the envelopes and poster.
Please do consider giving on a regular basis, assuring the care of our priests in their old age, or at a time of illness. This fund is a priority of the Church, and it provides us a chance to come together and say 'Thank you' to the priests who have served us. May God bless you for your kindness.

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

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 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

Monday 23 November
Feria

12noon	Michael Harrington RIP

Tuesday 24 November
Saint Andrew Duñ-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

	No 8.30am Mass
12noon	Holy Souls

Wednesday 25 November
Feria

12noon	Khurshid Mehmood Gill RIP

Thursday 26 November
Feria

12noon	No Mass today

Friday 27 November
Feria

6pm	Titilola & Abiodun Thanksgiving

Saturday 28 November
Feria

11am	Dermot Cribbin RIP
6pm	Michael Turner Int.

Sunday 29 November
+FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am	Pedro Nkemdirim Int.
9.30am	People of the Parish
11am	Jackie Elliott RIP
12.30pm	Peitro De Caro RIP anniv.
2.15pm	Polish Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Michal Galkowski 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.

Archbishop Richard will be offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for Watford Deanery Intentions during the week ahead.

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 receive 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.

Christmas Shopping With the cost of living crisis and expected energy price increases in the new year, please, please, do not get into debt buying unnecessary food and presents. Of course we all want to celebrate and no more than us as Christians celebrating the birth of Our Saviour, but enjoying making time with family and friends is free and priceless. Problems: 11.7 million UK adults (22%) were "at risk"—struggling to keep up with bills and credit commitments or using high-cost credit for essentials.

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 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

Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

Diary Dates

St Anthony's School Mass & Carol Service – Friday 4 December, 12 noon. All welcome.
Advent Parish Confession Friday 18 December, 6.30pm

"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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