**St Helen’s ChuRCH**

Watford WD24 6NJ

01923 223175

watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk

Priest of the Diocese

**Father Voy**

& DeaconLiam Lynch

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If our Christianity is merely a set of

exterior practices camouflaging a life of compromise with the weakness and hypocrisy of the world, we fail in our mission to manifest the hidden Nature of God to men in our own lives. We fail to let people know, by the spirituality and purity and strength of our own lives, that God is love, and that he loves them all as he loves his own son, and that he wants them all to recover their true identity as his sons and daughters.

by

Thomas Merton

**SINGERS WELCOME FOR CHRISTMAS**

Anyone who would like to join the choir for Carol Service and Midnight Mass is most welcome. There will be a practice session at the church on Wednesday 14th December at 7.15pm for approximately 1 hour.

**Christmas Offerings**

The Offertory collection on Christmas Day is traditional, for the benefit of priests working in parishes. Envelopes for contributions can be found in the church porch. Thank you for your support.

**Sunday 11th DECEMBER 2022**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 10th *Blessed Virgin Mary of Loretto:*

 08.30 Confessions / Exposition/

Adoration

09:15 Alan Jones (Anniv)

18:00 Michael Keating R.I.P.

Sun 11th 09:00 Grace & Lillian Kelly (wellbeing)

11:00 Mary Reardon

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Mon 12th *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

 09.15 Michael McGreevy (1st Anniv)

Tues 13th *St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

 09:15 Betty O’Sullivan

 09:30 Exposition/ Adoration

Wed 14th CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs 15th 10.00 Emma Keogh (wellbeing)

Fri 16th 09:15 Francis Gaven R.I.P.

 09:30 Exposition/ Adoration

Sat 17th 08:30 Confessions / Exposition/

Adoration

 09:15 Geraldine, Patrick and

 Shaun Lennon (Anniv)

 18:00 Kay Reordon

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE/SALE** 

Raffle - Top prizes are Christmas Hampers (1 food, 1 drink) along with various other prizes! Tickets cost £1 per strip of 5 and will be on sale after Masses. Every Sunday you can purchase Christmas cards, candles and decorations etc, after Mass (from 09:30 to 11:00). **Thank you for your support.**

**SENIOR PARISHIONERS’** 

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our Senior Parishioners’ Christmas Party will take place this **Saturday** **17th December 2022, at 12:00 for 12:30.** There is still time to put your name on the list in the Hall Lobby and indicate if you require a lift. If you can help with lifts on the day or have any queries regarding the party, please contact Judith on 01923 680702 or 07760 378881.

**Our delightful Alter Servers will be serving your Christmas lunch**! Thank you Alter Servers 😊

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS AT 6:30PM**

This year, our children will be performing the Nativity Play, directed by our Chief Alter Server, Emily Wright.

Rehearsals will take place on the next two consecutive Saturday’s.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES / SERVICES 2022**

Penitential Service: 15/12/2022 at 19:00

Christmas Eve: Children’s Mass at 18:30

Christmas Eve: Carol Service at 23:30

Christmas Eve: Midnight Mass at 12:00

Christmas Day: Mass at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 26/12/2022: Mass at 10:00

Tuesday 27/12/2022: Mass at 10:00

Wednesday 28/12/2022: No Mass

Thursday 29/12/2022: Mass at 10:00

Friday 30/12/2022: Mass at 10:00

Saturday 31/12/2022: Mass at 10:00 & 18:00

Sunday 01/01/2023: Mass at 09.00 & 11.00

**Christmas Posters**

Posters are available at the back of the Church. Please take one to display in a window, and help to spread the true meaning of Christmas.

#### St Michael’s Catholic High School - ROLES

There are two vacancies at St Michael’s School with a starting date asap: 1) Cover Supervisor and

2) Learning Support Assistant.

Closing date: 15 December 2022. Please see posters on our notice boards for further details.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

The next monthly session will take place on Saturday 14th January 2023, in the Parish Hall at 10.00 with Deacon Liam. If you would like to attend a session (on 2nd Saturday of each month), please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

#### Gospel of Matthew

In Liturgical Cycle A, the focus falls on St Matthew. You can listen to the whole of St Matthew’s Gospel in audio. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-gospel-according-to-st-matthew>

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 4th December 2022**

Planned Giving £242.21 Loose Plate £278.69

Standing Orders for October: £3,655.49

If you would like to set up a monthly

Standing Order, our bank details are:

**HSBC Bank: WRCDT Watford North**

Sort Code: **40-05-20** Account No: **81263439**

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

**Gift Aiding your donation**

If you are a UK taxpayer, a reminder that you can Gift Aid your donation. This adds 25p to every £1 given, at no extra cost to you. Either complete the Gift Aid section on the reverse of the envelope or choose this option if donating via the web.

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**12th December at 6pm: St. Michael's Catholic High School Advent Service – Crown Rise, Garston, WD25 0NE.** You are warmly invited to attend our Advent Service. It will include a selection of short readings and a mixture of traditional and modern carols. Refreshments will follow in the parish hall. If you would like to attend, please confirm your attendance to: baker.v@stmichaelscatholichighschool.co.uk.

Thoughts for the week:

Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value.

Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth.

Two things are infinite: The universe and human stupidity, and I am not sure about the Universe!

***Albert Einstein***