**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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Whatever is beautiful, whatever is meaningful, whatever brings you happiness, may it be yours this Christmas. And I pray that the true spirit of this great event of the Incarnation shines in your heart and illuminates your path.

Thank you for your support and guidance this year.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

Fr Voy

**Christmas FAYRE**

A very big thank you to everyone who organised (and/or supported) our Christmas Fayre. We raised a grand total of £1,046.54 for the fayre and another £566.00 for the raffle. This is a great result, which was only made possible by your hard work.

**Thank you for supporting St Helen’s Church** 😊

**Prize Winners from Raffle on 10th December 2022**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ticket** | **Name** | **Prize** |
| **794** | **T Moore** | **Food Hamper** |
| **30** | **Joe** | **Drinks Hamper** |
| **956** | **Mary Linsky** | **Brandy** |
| **814** | **John** | **Port** |
| **310** | **AnnMarie** | **Spa Set** |
| **989** | **Paul Sackett** | **Reed Diffuser** |
| **Jo McDonald** | **Christmas cake Raffle** |
| **Mary Geelan** | **Apple Juice (2nd prize)** |

**Sunday 18th DECEMBER 2022**

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 17th 08.30 Confessions / Exposition/

Adoration

09:15 Geraldine, Patrick &

 Shaun Lennon (Anniv)

18:00 Kay Reordon

Sun 18th 09:00 Bourke family R.I.P.

11:00 Lorna Jacobs.

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Mon 19th *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

 09.15 Michael O’Connor (Anniv)

Tues 20th *St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

 09:15 Maureen Horan R.I.P.

 09:30 Exposition/ Adoration

Wed 21st CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

 10:00 Funeral: John Brosnan

Thurs 22nd 10.00 Philip Axtell R.I.P.

Fri 23rd 09:15 Catriena Gohhon (wellbeing)

 09:30 Exposition/ Adoration

Sat 24th 08:30 Confessions / Exposition/

Adoration

 09:15 Joe Heraty R.I.P.



**CHRISTMAS MASSES FOR 2022**

**Saturday 24/12/22: CHRISTMAS EVE**

**18:30: CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS**

**23:30: CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

**12:00: CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS**

**Sunday 25/12/22: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

 **(CHRISTMAS)**

**09:00: CHRISTMAS MASS**

**11:00: CHRISTMAS MASS**

**Monday 26/12/22: Mass: 10:00.**

**Tuesday 27/12/2022: Mass: 10:00.**

**Wednesday 28/12/22: NO MASS.**

**Thursday 29/12/22: Mass: 10:00**

**Friday 30/12/22: Mass: 10:00:**

**Saturday 31/12/22: Mass 10:00 and 18:00**

**Sunday 01/01/23: Mass at 09:00 and 11:00**



**REMINDER FOR OUR ALTER SERVERS**

Our Alter Servers will be decorating the Church Christmas Tree on Thursday 22nd December at 11:00. Thank you very much! 😊

**FUNERAL OF JOHN BROSNAN**

John’s funeral service will be held at St Helen’s church on Wednesday 21st December at 10:00 (Burial 11:30 at North Watford Cemetery). John was a much-loved parishioner of St Helen’s Church for many years.

**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 this or another session (2nd Saturday of each month), please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 11th December 2022**

Planned Giving £85.50 Loose Plate £186.49

Standing Orders for November: £3,636.99

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.

**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.

**HEALTH & WELLBEING**

Streptococcal infections (Scarlet fever, impetigo, etc) covers a variety of diseases which are contagious. They can spread through droplets when someone with the infection coughs or sneezes, or through shared food or drinks. The commonest symptoms are sore throat, and impetigo (a skin disease). Infections are usually treatable with antibiotics and most people recover after 4 or 5 days (although it can be serious in the very young or elderly). The best way to avoid catching it is good hand hygiene. For more information, please see the fact sheet in the Parish Hall.

**KEEPING WARM……**

In this extremely cold weather, it’s good to wear thick socks (slippers when indoors) as keeping your feet warm will improve your circulation and make your whole body feel warmer.

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

Thoughts for the week:

With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate, and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity.

The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.

Life is short, break the rules. Forgive quickly, kiss slowly, love truly, laugh uncontrollably and never regret anything that makes you smile.

Mark Twain