**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 MASSES FOR 2022**

**Saturday 24/12/22: 18:30:** Christmas Eve Family Mass.

**Saturday 24/12/22: 23:30:**

Christmas Carol Service

**Saturday 24/12/22: 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**: *ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr:* Mass: 10:00.

**Tuesday 27/12/2022:** *ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist:* Mass: 10:00.

**Wednesday 28/12/22:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: NO MASS.

**Thursday 29/12/22:** ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr, Patron of the Parish Clergy. Mass: 10:00

**Friday 30/12/22**: *THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH:* Mass: 10:00:

**Saturday 31/12/22:** *7th DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS:* Mass 10:00 and 18:00

**Sunday 01/01/23:** *SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD:* Mass at 09:00 and 11:00

**Sunday 25th december 2022**

*THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)*

***&***

**1ST JANUARY 2023**

*The Feast of the Holy Family*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR BOTH WEEKS**

Sat 24th 08.30 Confessions / Exposition/

Adoration

09:15 Joe Heraty R.I.P.

Sun 25th 09:00 Parishioners

11:00 Mary McDonald R.I.P.

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Mon 26th 10:00 Joe Heraty R.I.P

Tues 27th *St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

10:00 Joan Downey - wellbeing

Wed 28th CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs 29th 10.00 For the soul of:

Bernardo Felix Da Silva.

Fri 30th 10:00 Arokiasamy family

Sat 31st 10:00 Timothy Cronin (Anniv.)

Sun 1st  09:00 Eddie & Steve Foley (Anniv.)

11:00 Ava Cutts: Thanksgiving

Mon 2nd 09:15 Anna Ponzini R.I.P.

Tues 3rd 09:15 Kathleen Rochford & family

Wed 4th CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs 5th Eddie Sharkey (Anniv.)

Fri 6th **Feast of the Epiphany**

09:15 Arokiasamy family Intentions 19:00 Parishioners

Sat 7th 09:15 Steve Wiles R.I.P (16th Anniv.)

18:00 Mary Welsh (Anniv.)

**CRIB APPEAL 2022: CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY**

Donations for this appeal can be put in the box on the sanctuary.

**ST HELEN’S 50–50 FUND DEC. 2022 DRAW**

(A Christmas Bonus of £15 was added to each prize).

**1st Prize £75:**  Linda Lloyd - No 78.

**2nd Prize £60:** Antony Jeffery - No 103

**3rd Prize £45:** Chris Fanning - No 117

**Congratulations to all of our winners.**

Cheques of **£408.75 (each)** were issued to three of the Charities voted for by the membership of the Fund.  They are:

1. Mary's Meals.

2. Peace Hospice Care.

3. Sick and Retired Clergy.

**£408.75** has gone into the St Helens Church Funds. From this, a cheque for £200 has been issued to the St Vincent De Paul St Helen's/ St Michaels group.

**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](mailto:watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk) with your details.

**A BIG THANK YOU**

To those who put up and decorated the Christmas Tree and set up the crib. We know that you have worked tirelessly to make our ‘Church’ a beautiful witness to the Nativity.

**Lee Maskell**

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden death of Lee Maskell who was an employee at Ginders Funeral Directors. We pray for his family and we pray that perpetual light will shine upon him. May his soul rest in peace.

**CONFIRMATION 2022**

Information regarding the next programme will be available in the New Year.

**HEALTH/SAFETY OVER CHRISTMAS**

At this time of year, please be mindful of your personal safety at all times when using the Church. For example, slippery paths and steps which may have fallen leaves and other debris covering them. In the event of an accident, it must be recorded on an Accident Form. (forms are available in the Sacristy and Hall kitchen).

**WORKING AT HEIGHT**

Under no circumstances should volunteers carry out any work at height without prior agreement with the parish priest; this is to ensure their safety.

**CANDLES**

When visiting the church over Christmas, please be mindful that lots of candles are lit during this period. Most importantly, when lighting a candle, make sure there is nothing flammable anywhere near it.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 18th December 2022**

Planned Giving £110.10 Loose Plate £220.46

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.

anned Giving: £572.88p Loose Plate £303.29p

Standing Orders£1897.33.

**TIONS FOR**

**24th April: £**

***Planned Giving: £ Loose Plate: £***

***Our total income received in March for***

***Standing Orders: p***

***Standing Order figures:***

***April £1,917.33 May £2,022.33***

**TIONS FOR**

**24th April: £**

***Planned Giving: £ Loose Plate: £***

***Our total income received in March for***

***Standing Orders: p***

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

Thought for the week:

*Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of being. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.*

*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.*

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

Mark Twain