**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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*My gratitude to you all for making our Christmas celebrations so joyous and meaningful. May the Spirit of Christmas be in us all year round.*

*On a more personal note, I thank you for your generous Christmas gifts.*

***Fr Voy***

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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

**Sunday 8th JANUARY 2023**

**‘The Baptism of the Lord’**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 7th 08.30 Confessions / Exposition/

Adoration

09:15 Steve Wiles (16th Anniv.)

18:00 Mary Welsh (Anniv.)

Sun 8th 09:00 The Clancy family R.I.P.

11:00 Timothy Cronin (Anniv.)

Mon 9th 09:15 Olive McMahon

Tues 10th 09:15 Oswaldo & Lumena Thanksgiving

 (10th Wedding Anniv).

 09:30 Exposition/ Adoration

Wed 11th CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs 12th 10.00 Eamon O’Brien - wellbeing

Fri 13th ***St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor***

 09:15 Mark Flaherty & Ita Dornan

 (Anniv).

 09:30 Exposition/ Adoration

Sat 14th ***Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday***

 09:15 John Brosnan R.I.P

 18:00 Alice Ginty (Anniv.)

Sun 15th ***WORLD PEACE DAY***

 ***SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME***

 09:00 O’Shea Family R.I.P.

11:00 Emma Keogh wellbeing.

#### Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI Requiescat in pace

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who served as Supreme Pontiff from April 2005 to February 2013, has died aged 95. The Requiem Mass, presided over by Benedict’s successor Pope Francis, took place yesterday, after almost 200,000 pilgrims had paid their final respects to the Pope Emeritus during a period of his lying in state for the previous three days. In his homily at the Requiem Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pope Francis commends his predecessor into the loving hands of God the Father, and prays that his joy may now be complete as he contemplates the Lord face to face.

<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/pope-emeritus-benedict-requiescat-in-pace/>

**PEACE SUNDAY**

This takes place on 15th January 2023. The Holy Father’s 2023 Message for World Peace Day is: “No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace.”

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

This will take place on the second Saturday of every month, in the Parish Hall at 10.00 with Deacon Liam. If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**18TH – 25TH JANUARY 2023**

For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE**

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide. You are invited to comment. Bishop John Sherrington said that the Catholic Church can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. All life is sacred from conception until natural death. Statements of the Bishops' Conference can be found at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/>. If you would like to comment (and/or answer the 6 questions posed) please email the parish office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk.

Thank you.

**Chaplain Vacancy**

A vacancy has arisen at the Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith, London. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this position, please ask them to contact the parish office at: watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk.

**CONFIRMATION 2023**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Friday 23rd June 2023 at 7pm. Further details to follow.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 25th December 2022**

Planned Giving £131.00 Loose Plate £758.81

**and Sunday 1st January 2023**

Planned Giving £71.50 Loose Plate £219.54

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***

**Diary Date:**

**Thursday 26th January 2023**, Measure for Measure ([Abbey Theatre](https://www.abbeytheatre.org.uk/), Westminster Lodge, Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 2DL). Written by William Shakespeare, this play tells the story of a corrupt and hypocritical society and the individuals who strive to bring about justice and mercy. Your support will help us continue to make a difference in the lives of those who are living with addiction and in need of hope/guidance.

Time: **8pm – 10pm** (doors open at 7:30)

<https://www.livingroomherts.org/Event/measure-for-measure>

Thought for the week:

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

Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.

Mark Twain