**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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With a great deal of prayer, humility, willingness to be changed and transformed interiorly, to be quieted down, etc. etc., and to do all the rest that God asks of you as time goes on, you will doubtless prepare to meet His grace….. In other words, take it easy. Take what God gives and trust Him. He will do the rest.

In the long run, the basic thing is faith and prayer however one may look at it, because without these there is no real love: love does not have deep enough roots without them. If one has a deeper and hidden stability in these things, then the externals can change as much as you like.

by

Thomas Merton

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

The next baptismal preparation session (18th February 2023) is now fully booked. If you would like to attend the March (or a later) session, please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**Sunday 12th FEBRUARY 2023**

**6th Sunday in ORDINARY TIME**

**Holy Childhood Sunday**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 11th ***Our Lady of Lourdes***

***World Day of the Sick***

08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

09:15 Andreas Chungong (Anniv).

11:00 Baptism: McLoughlin

18:00 Mary O’Connor R.I.P.

18:00 ***LEPRA APPEAL***

Sun 12th ***LEPRA APPEAL***

 09:00 Mary O’Connor R.I.P.

11:00 Helen and Jim O’Shea (Anniv.)

Mon 13th 09:15 Honorio McKeowen R.I.P.

Tues 14th ***SS CYRIL, Monk and Methodius, Bishop***

 09:15 Communion Service

Wed 15th CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs 16th 10:00 Communion Service

 10:00 Kevin Walsh R.I.P.

Fri 17th ***The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order***

 09:15 Communion Service

 09:15 Ava Cutts - wellbeing

Sat 18th ***Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday.***

 09:15 Parishioners

 10:00 Baptism Prep (with Deacon Liam)

 18:00 Parish

Sun 19th 09:00 Parishioners - wellbeing

 11:00 Tom McGuire R.I.P.

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**LEPRA APPEAL**

Today, nearly 600 people will be diagnosed with leprosy; more than 50 of these will be children. Over 7m people are currently affected by leprosy across the world.  Over 3m people are living with undiagnosed leprosy and over 4m people are living with a life-changing disability caused by leprosy. Please help us beat leprosy – even the smallest contribution can help treat and rehabilitate people trapped by this disease. Thank you for your support.

**NEW BOOK CLUB AT ST HELEN’S CHURCH**

A new Book Club will be starting on Friday 17th February 2023 in the Parish Hall. The club will meet once a month from 7:30pm – to around 9:00pm and will involve ‘Exploring our Faith’. All are welcome and it’s not necessary to pre-book. I hope to see you there. Barbara.

**ST HELEN’S 50–50 FUND JANUARY. 2023 DRAW**

**1st Prize £60:**  Ann McPhillips - No 99

**2nd Prize £45: John Cuthbert** - No 16

**3rd Prize £30: (the late) Kath Kearney** - No 43

(Donated to St Helen’s at Next of Kin request)

**Congratulations to all of our winners.**

**CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal**

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Please pray for those affected by the earthquakes. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD’s Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

**SVP SENIOR SPRING TEA PARTY – With Bingo and entertainment!**

 **(St Helen’s Parish Hall, Harebreaks, Watford, WD24 6NJ)**

There is still time to sign up for the Senior’s Spring Tea Party on Sunday 5th March 2023 from 2pm to 4pm. Please sign the form at the back of the church.

For any queries, or for more information about the SVP: Please see <https://www.svp.org.uk/> or contact Mirella on 07803 989512.

#### National Marriage Week (7 - 14 February)

Marriage Week helps us focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and family life. The theme for 2023 is ‘**Marriage… one flesh, given and received’**. All God’s people are called to live a life of holiness through their vocation. We have a prayer for Marriage Week, links to organisations promoting and supporting Catholic marriage, the saints that can support us in our vocation and more. https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week/

**FRIENDLY FEBRUARY**

Lord Richard Layard, Sir Anthony Seldon, Sir Geoff Mulgan, and Dr. Mark Williamson launched Action for Happiness in 2010. They held the simple but revolutionary belief that if we all prioritise happiness, we can improve the standard of living in our societies. The month of February is ideal for celebrating friendship. Every interaction has the potential to be friendly to some extent, and most interactions will benefit from having even a little bit of it. Take part in Friendly February and print the challenges for yourself at home or at the office. <https://actionforhappiness.org/>

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 5th January 2023**

Planned Giving £96.50 Loose Plate £259.91

Standing Orders for December: 3,439.49.

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.

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 Dates:**

**16 February, 7.30pm:** Friends of the Holy Land Concert. Music from the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and supported by Irish trio "The Priests". Westminster Cathedral. Tickets from £20. [www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/westminster-concert2023](http://www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/westminster-concert2023).

**Friday 3rd March 2023 at 2pm** – World Day of Prayer 2023 – A Service for Everyone (written by the Christian Woken of Taiwan), followed by refreshments. At St Lukes Church, Langley way.

**Christians Across Watford Leaders' Breakfast, Saturday 18th March from 8:30am at Woodside Community Church of the Nazarene** Break bread and be encouraged by other Christian leaders. This month we're celebrating the handover of Chair of CAW from Rev. Tim Roberts to Trustee Nadya Dyett, and being joined by Mayor Peter Taylor. Join us and other local leaders of Christian churches and agencies for informal food and fellowship! Places are £10 and will go to an amazing breakfast spread.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leaders-breakfast-tickets-541169561727>

**20 March 2023 at 7:30pm:** New Hope’s ‘Light in the Darkness’ annual celebration. St Luke’s Church.

* Did you know .......... That there are more than 1 billion Catholics in the world, in all five continents. They are particularly concentrated in southern Europe, the U.S., [the Philippines](https://www.factretriever.com/philippines-facts), and the countries of Central and South America.

Thoughts for the week: by Oscar Wilde

Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead.

There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.