**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**

This takes 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.

**Sunday 19th FEBRUARY 2023**

**7th Sunday in ORDINARY TIME**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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.

Mon 20th 09:15 Communion Service

Tues 21st ***St Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor***

 09:15 Gabriel Moral & Angela Moral (thanksgiving)

Wed 22nd ***Ash Wednesday – Day of Fast***

 ***& Abstinence***

 09:15 Communion Service

Thurs 23rd ***St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr***

 10:00 Communion Service

Fri 24th 09:15 Communion Service

 09:15 Ava Cutts - wellbeing

Sat 25th 09:15 Mary Ellen Sutcliffe

 18:00 Lavender Fernandes

Sun 26th ***1st Sunday of Lent***

 09:00 Paddy Banny

 11:00 Jim Earley (Anniv)

**Cardinal's Lenten Alms Appeal**

This Appeal will take place during Lent. Funds raised will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. Thank you.

**BISHOPS VISITATION**

Bishop Paul McAleenan will be visiting St Helen’s next month. The Bishop will be meeting with various people during his visit. Further details will follow.

**ST HELEN’S 50/50 FUND**

Thank you to everyone who supported the fund during the past year. It is now time to renew membership for the next year. Please complete a form and return it in the envelope provided.

Thank you again for your support.

**Have you signed a Gift Aid form?**

We will soon be putting in a Gift Aid claim asking HM Revenue & Customs to give us the tax that you have paid on your donations. If you have stopped paying tax, please contact Richard McPhillips on 01923 893776 or email watfordnorthgac@rcdow.org.uk so that we don’t ask for the tax if you haven’t paid it.

**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.

**The Universe Catholic Weekly**

Keeps Catholics informed about their faith, and brings them ever closer to God. Order **your Digital** 4 weeks **FREE introductory offer** by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk.

**Annual Mass for Matrimony**

The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm. For couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries – 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th,  50th, 60th and 60+. As usual, couples are asked to register their wish to attend with their parish by end of March. please email watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk.

**‘Come and See’ – Intro to the Diaconate 2023**

Men who may be considering a vocation as a deacon, or for those wanting to know more about the Permanent Diaconate are invited to attend one of the Introductory Mornings on:

• 4th March, 10am-12noon: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN.

• 1st April, 10am-12noon: ‘New Southgate Parish Hall - Our Lady of Lourdes, 373 Bowes Road, N11 1AA

• 20th May, 10am-12noon: Greenford Parish Hall - Our Lady of the Visitation, 358 Greenford Road, UB6 9AN. For further information please contact Deacon Colin Macken, email: colinmacken@rcdow.org.uk

**CELEBRATE LENT**
Celebrate:Lent is a magazine for Catholic kids full of cool activities and fun quizzes. Perfect for 7-12 year olds, it will encourage them to think about and grow in their faith while having fun!
**£1.95 per copy.**

<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/celebratelent>

**Did you know** ..........That [Brazil](https://www.factretriever.com/brazil-facts) has more Catholics than [Italy](https://www.factretriever.com/italy-facts), [France](https://www.factretriever.com/france-facts), and [Poland](https://www.factretriever.com/poland-facts) combined.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 12th February 2023**

Planned Giving £100.50 Loose Plate £259.75

Standing Orders for January: £3651.99

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 Dates:**

**Sunday 19th February at 2:00pm –** Support for Earthquake Victims - Watford Interfaith Association Prayer Service support all victims, survivors and rescue workers involved with the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Please join them at Watford Peace Garden, Cassiobury Park, today.

**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.

**Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7.30pm.** As part of its Lenten devotions, Westminster Cathedral Choir will perform J.S. Bach's St John Passion. The Cathedral Choir will be accompanied by a period Baroque orchestra and joined by outstanding soloists.

Parishioners of the diocese can buy tickets at a discount of 50%. <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F005D88A31F16CD?did=saint50john> Please enter the password: SJP50 to obtain the 50% discount.

**Saturday 18th March from 8:30am**, Woodside Community Church of the Nazarene. Christians Across Watford Leaders' Breakfast.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.

Thoughts for the week: by Oscar Wilde

Life is too short to be taken seriously.

Everyone may not be good, but there's always something good in everyone. Never judge anyone shortly because every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.