**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

**Cardinal's Lenten Alms Appeal**

This Appeal is taking place during Lent and envelopes can be found at the back of the church. Whatever you can afford will be gratefully received. Thank you for your continued support.

**Sunday 26th FEBRUARY 2023**

**1ST SUNdAY OF LENt**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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)

Mon 27th ***St Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor***

 09:15 Ursula O’Neill

Tues 28th 09:15 Parishioners

Followed by Exposititon & Adoration

Wed 1st ***St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales***

 CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs 2nd 10:00 Kevin Walsh

Fri 3rd ***CAFOD Family Fast Day***

 09:15 Lee (Protection)

 ***Stations of the Cross follows Mass***

Sat 4th 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

 09:15 Eamonn O’Brien R.I.P.

 18:00 Ava Cutts (wellbeing)

Sun 5th ***2nd Sunday of Lent***

 09:00 Ava Cutts (wellbeing)

 11:00 Parishioners

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT**

The Stations will be said after Mass on Friday.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal**

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Please give today using the envelope or at [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD’s development and emergency response work all over the world.

**ST HELEN’S 50/50 FUND**

There is still time to renew membership for the next 50/50 Fund Year and new members are welcome. 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.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 19th February 2023**

Planned Giving £107.50 Loose Plate £256.09

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***

**CONTACTLESS DONATIONS**

A reminder that we accept contactless donations with all major payment cards accepted. Just select your amount, tap or insert your card to donate (not forgetting to Gift Aid!) It’s fast and easy.

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

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

A reminder that the Senior’s Spring Tea Party is on Sunday 5th March 2023 from 2pm to 4pm. For any queries, please contact Mirella on 07803 989512.

**POTENTIAL TRIP TO LOURDES**

St Helen’s is looking at the possibility of a trip to Lourdes in mid-June. The flight would go from Stansted Airport (coach travel to the airport can be arranged) with a 4-night stay/4-star hotel with meals included for £610. We would need a reasonable number of people to make the trip viable. If you are interested, please email the office asap: watfordnorthgac@rcdow.org.uk (and please ensure your passport is valid!)

**HOME LIBRARY SERVICE**

Hertfordshire Libraries offers a ‘Home Library Service’ for people who are unable to get to the library. A team of volunteers will choose and deliver a selection of books (or talking books) to anyone eligible in the WD24/25 area. Email: watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk.

**ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY - WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023 AT 2:30PM.**

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass, all couples in the Diocese, celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please send details to: watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk) by end of March.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

This takes place in the Parish Hall on the second Saturday of every month at 10:00 with Deacon Liam. To book, please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**Parish Volunteering during Lent**

This Lent, do you feel called to offer the gift of time? Please speak to the parish priest, contact the parish office or fill in the form on <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/parish-volunteering.php> to find out how you can help in the parish. Thank you! The link leads to a new expression-of-interest form on the Caritas Volunteer Service website, exclusively for parish ministries and outreach.

#### POPE FRANCIS

#### A special prayer initiative for the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis’ pontificate takes place on 13 March. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/special-initiative-to-mark-the-10th-anniversary-of-pope-francis-pontificate/> In his Message for Lent 2023, Pope Francis highlights the relationship between the Lenten journey and the synodal journey, which are both rooted in tradition and open to newness.

Pope Francis takes his inspiration from the Gospel

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-francis-our-lenten-journey-is-synodal/>

**Diary Dates:**

**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.

Thoughts for the week: by Oscar Wilde

I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself.

Ultimately the bond of all companionship, whether in marriage or in friendship, is conversation.