**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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You are right in feeling a little fear at the greatness of the task, and the possible difficulties. You will certainly meet great difficulties, and heartbreaking opposition and disappointment in many ways. You may in fact even be deprived of tasting the full fruit of success. But if you simply forget about the results and do the work with all your heart because it is pleasing to God and for the benefit of your brothers, and if you take that as reward enough in this life, you will achieve far more than you could ever hope……

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.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT**

The Stations will be said after Mass on Friday.

**Sunday 12th MARCH 2023**

**3RD SUNdAY OF LENt**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 11th 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

 09:15 Parishioners

 12:00 Baptism: Ince

 18:00 Catriona Gannon (wellbeing)

Sun 12th ***3rd Sunday of Lent***

 09:00 Vivian Tangang (b/day wellbeing)

 11:00 Ava Cutts (wellbeing)

Mon 13th ***POPE FRANCIS (10 YR ANNIVERSARY)***

 09:15 - Vera Popperouva &

 Daisy Lowositzova R.I.P.

Tues 14th 09:15 – Joseph Silva (Anniv.)

Followed by Exposititon & Adoration

Wed 15th CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs 16th 10:00 Ava Cutts (wellbeing)

Fri 17th ***ST PATRICK’S DAY***

 09:15 Patricia O’Sullivan (B/Day Anniv)

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

Sat 18th ***St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor***

 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

 09:15 Eamon O’Brien R.I.P.

 18:00 Ava Cutts (wellbeing)

Sun 19th ***4th Sunday of Lent***

 09:00 Bernardo & Frida Da Silva

 11:00 Elizabeth and Frank Guzik

**BISHOPS VISITATION**

Today, we welcome The Right Rev Paul McAleenan, our Bishop - into our St Helen’s Church community. Parishioners will have a chance to meet Bishop Paul after the weekend Masses and during the ‘bring & share’ following 11:00 Mass on Sunday in the parish hall. I know you will make Bishop Paul feel very welcome. Thank you. Fr Voy.

**CAFOD – Lent Appeal**

Thank you for giving to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day appeal this Lent. Your generous donations, rooted in love, will support families around the world to grow in strength to fight the climate crisis. You can still give online at [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give). Thank you.

**ST PATRICK’S DAY – 17TH MARCH 2023**

To celebrate St Patrick, on Thursday 16th March 2023, after 10:00 Mass, there will be a St Patrick's tea party in the parish hall. All are welcome.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

The next preparation session will take place in the Parish Hall on 15th April at 10:00 with Deacon Liam. To book, please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 5th March 2023**

Planned Giving £95.00 Loose Plate £276.53

Standing Orders for February: £3,334.00

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***

**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.

**CONFIRMATION 2023**

Applications are invited from young people in school Year 9 and above to apply for this year’s programme.  Forms are available from the Hall Lobby or can be downloaded from our web site. The programme will begin after Easter on Wednesday evenings (timings TBC). The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Friday 23rd June 2023 at 7pm. Closing date for applications is 31/03/2023.

**SVP Event**

Thank you so much to everyone who supported and attended last week’s SVP event. It was very successful and a good time was had by all. We look forward to welcoming you at future events.

From: Mirella and the SVP team. 😊

**St Helen's 50/50 Fund - Deadline Approaching!**

We have 61 members so far for 2023/24 which is fantastic. Thank you to everyone who has applied.

In order to maximise the monthly prizes, we'd love to get to the magic 100 this month, so if you haven't applied yet, please pick up a form from the back of the church, hall lobby, or parish office, and return it to the office by **next Sunday (18th)** to be included in the March draw! Come and join us in the hall for a tea or coffee and the**first draw of the new 50/50 'year!',** which will take place in the hall after 9 o'clock Mass on Sunday March 26th. Thank you for your support for both the parish and our local charities!

**BOOK CLUB**

The next monthly book club meeting is on Friday (17th March 2023) at 7:30pm in the parish hall. All are welcome.

**POTENTIAL TRIP TO LOURDES**

Flying from Stansted Airport on 15th June 2023 (4-night stay), the trip costs £610. We need more people to make this trip viable. If you are interested, please email watfordnorthgac@rcdow.org.uk by Friday 17th March 2023 (please ensure your passport is valid!)

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

The Cardinal is inviting all couples in the Diocese, celebrating special wedding anniversaries of Catholic marriage, to a Mass. Please send details to: watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk) by end of March.

#### READING IN LENT

During the weekdays and Saturdays of Lent, daily podcasts from the Gospel of John – “the disciple whom Jesus loved”. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/series/reading-john-in-lent>

**Diary Dates:**

**11th – 16th March - Our Lady and St Michael Church, Garston, Crown Rise, Watford, WD26 0NE** – Fr Paul invites you to join their Parish Mission Week. For details:  <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/garston/events/franciscan-friars-of-the-renewal-parish-mission/>

**Sunday 12th March 2023, 10am to 4pm at the Beechen Grove Baptist Church, Clarendon Road, Watford WD17 1JJ.** The Healthy Hub is organising a Prostate Cancer Awareness Event - Understand your risk, know the symptoms and act early.

**Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7.30pm.** 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)

Live the wonderful life that is in you! Let nothing be lost upon you. Be always searching for new sensations. Be afraid of nothing.

With freedom, books, flowers, and the moon, who could not be happy?