**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 5th MARCH 2023**

**2nd SUNdAY OF LENt**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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 Lorna Jacobs (thanksgiving)

 11:00 Parishioners

Mon 6th 09:15 - Debbie Cooper R.I.P

Tues 7th 09:15 – Grace Chungong & family (Thanksgiving)

Followed by Exposititon & Adoration

Wed 8th CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs 9th ***St Frances of Rome, Religious***

 10:00 The Whitney Family R.I.P.

Fri 10th 09:15 – Oscar (wellbeing)

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

Sat 11th 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

 09:15 Maria (thanksgiving)

 18:00 Catriona Gannon (wellbeing)

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

 09:00 Vivian Tangang (b/day wellbeing)

 11:00 Ava Cutts (wellbeing)

**BISHOPS VISITATION**

Bishop Paul will be visiting St Helen’s. Following Mass on Sunday 12th March, there will be a ‘bring & share’ in the parish hall where the Bishop can meet parishioners in a relaxed setting, over food.

Thank you for your support as always.

**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. 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 FEB. 2023 DRAW**

1st Prize £60: John Cox - No 82

2nd Prize £45: John & Dorothy Twomey - No 30

3rd Prize £30: Barbara Sellman - No 22

**Congratulations to all of our winners.**

**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.

**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 page. 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.

**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 26th February 2023**

Planned Giving £128.50 Loose Plate £239.02

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.

**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.

**PARISH GROUPS - ST HELEN’S**

If you enjoy a game of bingo, our bingo club meets every Tuesday from 5pm to 7pm in the parish hall. Everyone welcome.

Our tea & coffee club takes place every Thursday (in the parish hall), following 10:00 Mass. Please come along for this sociable get-together. All are welcome.

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**

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 can be arranged) with a 4-night stay/4-star hotel with meals included for £610. We would need a reasonable number 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!)

**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.

**Sunday 19th November to Monday 27th November.** Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Route: Galilee – Jerusalem – Bethlehem. Flying from Heathrow (BA). Full board £2,265 pp sharing a room, £682 single room supplement. Travel insurance essential. B*ook online at* [*http://www.tangney-tours.com/WHL*](http://www.tangney-tours.com/WHL) *or call Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666 or Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage office 0207 798 9173.*

#### The St Bernadette Relic Tour Team release new legacy film to commemorate 2022’s hugely successful visit

[The St Bernadette Relic Tour Team release a fantastic new legacy film to commemorate 2022’s hugely successful visit - Catholic Bishops' Conference (cbcew.org.uk)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-st-bernadette-relic-tour-team-release-a-fantastic-new-legacy-film-to-commemorate-2022s-hugely-successful-visit/)

**Diary Dates:**

**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:

When you wake up today, someone will be breathing their last breath. Thank you, Lord, for another day.

Please don’t waste it!

Rather than seek to be happy, seek to be kind instead. Happiness will follow naturally.