**St Helen’s ChuRCH**

Watford WD24 6NJ

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watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk

Priest of the Diocese

**Father Voy**

& DeaconLiam Lynch

**Secretary**: Shirlie Halladey

(office hours: Tues & Thur (10am-3pm), Fri (10am – 4pm)

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We too easily tend to focus our eyes on our sinfulness and nothingness and then we forget that we have risen with Christ, that we have a wonderful new life to live in

 His Holy Spirit, that we have been overwhelmed with His gifts. It is true that we do not appreciate them enough: but the best way to appreciate them more is to look at them, and look at God’s love, instead of constantly looking at our own failures. If we wish to please God truly by our religious life, we must see that it is really a life and not just a living death……

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 28th MAY 2023**

Pentecost Sunday

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 27th  ***St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop***

 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

09:15 In thanksgiving to St Padre Pio

11:00 Baptism: A. Herriott

18:00 Siobhan Bucke R.I.P.

Sun 28th ***Pentecost Sunday***

 09:00 Martin Dalton R.I.P.

11:00 Margaret Kearns R.I.P.

Mon 29th ***Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church***

09:15 Siobhan Bucke R.I.P.

Tue 30th 09:15 Communion Service

Wed 31st **CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED**

Thurs 1st ***Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal Hight Priest*** *10:00* Evelyn McVay R.I.P.

Fri 2nd ***Ss Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs***

 09:15 Christine Cullen

 12:00 Funeral: Helen Benita Brown

Sat 3rd 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

09:15 Siobhan Bucke R.I.P.

12:00 Baptism: B Fernandes

18:00 Francesco Val Vano (25th Anniv).

Sun 4th ***The Most Holy Trinity***

 09:00 Bill Cummins R.I.P.

11:00 Siobhan Bucke R.I.P.

**Funeral of Helen Benita Brown**

The funeral of Helen Benita Brown will take place at

St Helen’s Church on Friday 2nd June 2023 at 12:00. Helen was a well-known and much-loved member of the parish. All are welcome.

**ST HELEN’S CHURCH - FLOWERS**

Any donations to help towards the cost of church flowers will be very gratefully received. Please use the receptacle/slot at the back of the church for coins. Card payments are also welcomed.

**Thank you for your support.**

**St Helen’s Summer Fayre**

Our Summer Fayre will take place on 1st July 2023 from 12.00 -14.00. We will be collecting goods for this shortly and there will be boxes available in the Church porches. There will also be raffle tickets on sale from next Sunday 4th June 2023.

**APF RED BOXES**

It is time to bring in your box for emptying. Please leave on the table at the back of the Church and it will be left back there for collection when emptied.

Thank you.

**Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023:** Friday 21st to 28th July 2023. There are still places available. If you are interested, please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk

**Eucharistic Ministers AND Readers**

The parish needs more Eucharistic Ministers for all Sunday masses (Saturday Vigil, Sunday 9am and 11am). If you would like to find out more, please speak to one of those already in the role, or contact Kurvilla Punnamkuzhy by email: kpunnamkuzhy@hotmail.com.

We would also welcome new **Readers** at 9am and 11am Masses on Sundays. If you are interested in this role, please speak to Sadie Vile at 9am mass or send an email with your name and a phone number to sadievile@yahoo.co.uk.

**Volunteers Week:**

The 1st to 7th June 2023 is volunteer’s week. A big thank you to all of our volunteers for their hard work and support to our parish.

If you would like to volunteer, we have plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. For further info, please email: watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk

**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?**

Watford Refugee Partnership are looking for volunteers to help befriend refugees and asylum seekers. For more details – please contact: Jeff Pratley on 07771 346872.

**Job Opportunities**

A list of current job vacancies at the Diocese can be found at: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>.

**Moment of Marian Prayer for the Synod**

The Synod Office in Rome has requested that 31st May 2023, the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady and the end of the Marian Month, be marked by a moment of Marian prayer for the Synodal Journey. If you would like to pray, resources can be found here:

<https://www.synodresources.org/31may2023/>

**PARISH GROUPS - ST HELEN’S**

Our bingo club meets every Tuesday from 5pm to 7pm in the parish hall. Everyone welcome.

The St Helen’s tea and coffee club takes place every Thursday (in the parish hall), following 10:00 Mass.

All are welcome.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**21st May 2023**

Planned Giving £124.50 Loose Plate £403.81

Standing Orders for April: £3,147.49

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:

**6th May to 30th July 2023** **- Exhibition: St Francis of Assisi.** The National Gallery is holding an exhibition exploring the life and legacy of St Francis of Assisi. Curated by the National Gallery’s Director, Dr Gabriele Finaldi, and Dr Joost Joustra, , it will include paintings by Botticelli, Sassetta, Caravaggio, Murillo, El Greco, and Antony Gormley as well as a new commission from Richard Long. Admission to the exhibition is free. For further information see website: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/saint-francis-of-assis>

**30 May & 6 June, 7.30—9.00pm:** Laudato Si’ Sessions, St John Vianney Parish Live Simply Group – ‘The world is listening to Pope Francis: What is he saying to us?’ St John Vianney’s Hall, West Green Road, N15 and online. <https://stjohnvianneywestgreen.co.uk/live-simply-group/>

**Wednesday 31st May from 7.30pm to 9pm -** Farm St Church, Mayfair. Eucharistic Adoration event for young people from the diocese. Bishop Nicholas Hudson (assisted by World Youth Day Pilgrims & Westminster Youth Ministry) hosting. Includes a talk by Antonia Salzano, mother of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

**Friday 2 June, Holy Rood Catholic Church,**

‘Night of Light’ led by Confirmation candidates and visit from Bishop Nicholas Hudson. Corpus Christi Procession, **Sunday 11 June** after 12:30pm Mass followed by parish party. Day Pilgrimate to Aylesford Priory, **Saturday 8 July** by coach. Please contact Holy Rood for details.

Thought for the week: (The Dalai Lama)

#### The Dalai Lama, when asked what surprised him most about humanity, answered “Man! Because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived.”