**St Helen’s ChuRCH**

Watford WD24 6NJ

01923 223175

watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk

Priest of the Diocese

**Father Voy**

& DeaconLiam Lynch

**Secretary**: Shirlie Halladey

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

[www.rcdow.org.uk/watfordnorth](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/watfordnorth)

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I wish you all a good summer, peace, contentment, and the joy you seek; or at least the courage and light to live free from care amid unavoidable trouble! The greatness of man, Camus wrote, consists in his ability to find something bigger than himself – and he added that if we cannot expect perfect happiness in this life, we can measure up to this kind of greatness. Don’t let the system grind you down! Joy to you in the Lord Jesus, who is our peace and our hope.

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 16th July 2023**

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 15th ***St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor***

 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

09:15 David McAteer

13:00 Wedding: M Paul & T McDonagh

18:00 Lottie (wellbeing)

Sun 16th 09:00 Helen Benita Brown R.I.P.

11:00 Parishioners (wellbeing)

Mon 17th 09:15 Jimmy McAteer R.I.P

Tue 18th 09:15 Frances Patton R.I.P.

Wed 19th **CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED**

Thurs 20th ***St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr***

 10:00 Maria’s intention

Fri 21st ***St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor***

 09:15 Thanksgiving Mass

Sat 22nd ***St Mary Magdalene***

 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

09:15 Josy’s Intention

11:00 Baptism: G Kane

12:30 E Flannery

18:00 Arthur (wellbeing)

Sun 23rd ***16th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

 ***St Bridget of Sweden***

09:00 TBA

11:00 TBA

**Aid to the Church in Need Appeal**

This weekend we have an appeal from ’Aid to the Church in Need’ (ACN) which supports persecuted and oppressed Christians. ACN supports more than 5,000 projects internationally.  There will be a second collection after all Masses. Please give whatever you can. If you also wish to get involved in the charity, please contact John Ravi on 07932973650 (john.ravi@acnuk.org) or go to [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org).

Thank you.

**YOUR SIGNATURE IS NEEDED**

At the back of the church is a CAFOD petition to our MP to address the world food crisis. It focuses on the need to ensure that farmers are able to manage their own crops. Please support this by adding your signature**. Thank you for your support.**

**HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME**

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home (or you know someone who would) then please let us know. You can call office phone or pop an email to watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

We are planning a Pilgrimage to Lourdes from St Helen’s - 26th to 31st May 2024 (5 nights), at a cost of £695 per person sharing (there is also a single supplement). We want to gauge initial interest, so if this trip appeals to you, please put your name on the list (when it appears at the back of the church) or email watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk (tel. 01923 223175). Thank you.

**New Seminarians**

Please pray for three new seminarians beginning formation for priesthood for the diocese in September:

* Devon Petrie (Harefield parish).
* Carl Williams (Cathedral parish).
* Paul Shield (West Green parish).

**A PORTRAIT OF TERESA OF AVILA FROM HER LETTERS**

(By Sheila Grimwood)

Teresa of Ávila was a Spanish Carmelite nun, mystic, and saint who lived in the 16th century. She is known for her spiritual writings and her reform of the Carmelite order[1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teresa_of_%C3%81vila)[2](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Teresa-of-Avila). She is also the patron saint of headache sufferers. Teresa wrote hundreds of letters, which give us an immediate impression of her passion, humanity, humour and her closeness to God. The book costs £1.00. <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/portrait-of-teresa-of-avila>

**FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

The ‘SVP’ will be organising another Senior’s Tea Party on 10th September.

The St Helen’s Social Committee will be organising a Quiz Night on Saturday 16th September.

#### Further details for both events will follow.

**Appeal for Volunteers**

We really need more volunteers to assist with counting monies on Tuesday mornings. If you can help with this (or any other volunteer roles we currently have on offer), please contact watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk or tel. 01923 223175. Any time you can spare to help your church, will be hugely appreciated. Thank you.

**Job Opportunities**

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

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**9th July 2023**

Planned Giving £152.50 Loose Plate £233.44

Standing Orders for May: £3,550.00

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***

#### 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. Admission to the exhibition is free. For further information see website: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/saint-francis-of-assis>

**Saturday 29th July - Pilgrimage-** The 13th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage. Bishop David Oakley of Northampton will preach at the Mass at 2.30pm at The Bridgettine Convent, Fulmer Common Road, Iver, SL0 0NR. Please send any prayer requests to; CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk or text them to 07795205114. For details, and printable GKC prayer cards: [www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk](http://www.catholicgkchestertonsociety.co.uk/)”

**Saturday, 5th August 2023 - Pilgrimage of Reparation, Walsingham.** A Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life will be led by Archbishop Kevin McDonald. The theme will be ‘Accepting the Gift’. Please see the poster in church for details of coaches leaving from various points in the diocese. There will also be an opportunity to follow online and join in this day of prayer for life.

#### Did you know?.........

The Capuchin Crypt in Rome consists of five chapels and a corridor 60 meters long—and it is decorated with the bones of 4,000 deceased monks. The [coffee](https://www.factretriever.com/coffee-facts) drink Cappuccino takes its name from this order of monks who were known by their custom of wearing a hood or cappuccio with their habits.

Thought for the week: (Oscar Wilde)

No better way is there to learn to love Nature than to understand Art. It dignifies every flower of the field. And, the boy who sees the thing of beauty which a bird on the wing becomes when transferred to wood or canvas will probably not throw the customary stone.