**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 & Thurs (10am-3pm), Fri (10am – 4pm)

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

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Let us be united in our prayers. This I say not as a formula, but in desperate poverty and need. With everyone else who is in need, who is in exile, a captive, who hungers for truth and cannot find truth, let us pray and mourn in our hearts and cry out to God, the God of Abraham, the God also of Hagar and Ishmael. May He give you strength in your sufferings and may His angels stand guard over you at all times. May the Holy Mother of God console you. May the Saviour of the world bless you.

by Thomas Merton

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – MAY 2024**

We are planning a Pilgrimage to Lourdes from St Helen’s, 30th May – 3rd June 2024 (5 nights), at a cost of £720 (full board) per person sharing (+ single supplement). To join, please put your name on the list at the back of the church. Thank you.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**3rd December 2023**

Loose Plate £298.62 Envelopes £132.50

 Standing Order for October: £3,497.00

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.

**Sunday 10th DECEMBER 2023**

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sat 9th**  ***St Juan Diego, Marian visionary***

09:15 Quinton & Frankie Int.

 18:00 Wladyslaw Miedziolka R.I.P

 Yvonne Miedziolka R.I.P.

**Sun 10th**  09:00 James Ngu (thanksgiving)

 11:00 Mark Aaherty (Anniv.)

 Ita Dornah (Anniv.)

 12:00 Baptisms: Freia & Aria Goncalves

 17:00 Reception of Master Peter

Mon 11th ***St Damasus I.Pope***

 09:15 Thanksgiving Mass for Shirlie

11:00 Funeral: Peter Arokiasamy

Tues 12th ***Our Lady of Guadalupe***

###  09:15 Michael McGreavy R.I.P (2nd Anniv)

### Wed 13th **Church and Office closed**

Thurs 14th St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

 10:00 Samantha & Steve Int.

19:30 Advent Penitential Service

Fri 15th 09:15 Peter, Bernie & family Int.

Sat 16th 09:15 Mary Hayne Int.

 11:00 Baptisms: Ella & Chloe Denham

 18:00 Zara & Selena Int.

**FUNERAL OF PETER AROKIASAMY**

The funeral of our dear friend Peter, will take place on Monday 11th December 2023 at 11:00 in St Helen’s Church. All are welcome to attend.

**ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

All parishioners are invited to attend our parish Advent Penitential Service**.**

 **on 14th December at 7.30pm.**

**NATIVITY PLAY (Christmas Eve at 18:30)**

If your child would like to partake in the Nativity play, please see our new Nativity play director Pippa Lynch **after 6pm Mass.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) Programme**

FHC starts on **16th December at 10:30** in the Hall.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**

The Offertory collection on Christmas Day is traditional, for the benefit of priests working in parishes. Envelopes for contributions can be found in the church porch. Thank you for your support.

**Christmas Posters**

Posters are available at the back of the Church. Please take one to display in a window, and help to spread the true meaning of Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES / SERVICES 2023**

Christmas Eve: Children’s Mass at 18:30

Christmas Eve: Carol Service at 23:15

Christmas Eve: Midnight Mass at 12:00

Christmas Day: Mass at 09:00 & 11:00

Boxing Day: Mass at 10:00

Wednesday 27/12/2023: No Mass

Thursday 28/12/2023: Mass at 10:00

Friday 29/12/2023: Mass at 10:00

Saturday 30/12/2023: Mass at 10:00 & 18:00

Sunday 31/12/2023: Mass at 09.00 & 11.00

Monday 01/01/2024: Mass at 10:00

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

The next monthly session will take place on Saturday 13th January 2024, in the church at 10.00 with Deacon Liam. If you would like to attend a session (on 2nd Saturday of each month), please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**ST HELEN’S 50–50 FUND APRIL 2023 DRAW WINNERS**

1st Prize £60: Frances Bourke – No. 76

2nd Prize £45: Frances Cox - No. 70

3rd Prize £30: - Franco Esposito - No. 77

3rd Prize £30: - Yvonne Dieobi – No.8

**Congratulations to all of our winners!**

**COLLEGE**

The Governors of Loreto College (St Albans) have recently agreed to propose some changes to their admissions criteria for 2025/2026.  Full detail on website.[***https://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk/Admissions/Admissions-Consultation-2025/***](https://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk/Admissions/Admissions-Consultation-2025/)Written comments are welcomed by the closing date of the formal consultation, 9am on 31st January 2024 - these should be emailed to***swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk***

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**Today from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.**  The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection 2023 at Sacred Heart RC Church, New Priory, Quex Road, Kilburn, London NW6 4PS, led by the Marian Fathers.  All Welcome.

**12th December 2023 Prayer for Evangelisation - Our Lady Star of the New Evangelisation -**

Pray a Scripture Rosary on the Feast of Our Lady Star of the New Evangelisation.  Online (via zoom) at 3:00pm or 6:30pm. Register below:

[***3:00pm Scripture Rosary - Register here***](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArduGtrz0uEtVlZb1jPYrPwxxxVdtCxCSo)

[***6:30pm Scripture Rosary - Register here***](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIkf-Grqz4tH9L-g29NbvRlkP-4_neEdhcG)

Thought for the week: *by Albert Einstein*

Christmas is the festival of peace.

Every year it comes in its own good time.

But peace inside and among us can come only through persistent effort.