**St Helen’s ChuRCH**

Watford WD24 6NJ

01923 223175

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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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If our Christianity is merely a set of

exterior practices camouflaging a life of compromise with the weakness and hypocrisy of the world, we fail in our mission to manifest the hidden Nature of God to men in our own lives. We fail to let people know, by the spirituality and purity and strength of our own lives, that God is love, and that he loves them all as he loves his own son, and that he wants them all to recover their true identity as his sons and daughters.

by

Thomas Merton

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

If you would like to attend one of our monthly baptismal preparation sessions with Deacon Liam, please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**Sunday 21ST JANUARY 2024**

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 20th ***St Fabian, Pope & Martyr***

 08:30 Confessions/Exposition/Adoration

 09:15 Betty Downey(wellbeing)

 18:00 Sabina Abrahamic R.I.P.

Sun 21st 09:00 Ann Bourke (Anniv.)

 11:00 Sean Stynes R.I.P. (14 yr Anniv) and Tom Muja (Anniv.)

Mon 22nd ***St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr***

 09:15 Lynsey De Paul R.I.P.

 11:30 Funeral: Dominic Marc Gooding

Tues 23rd 09:15 John D’Cruz (wellbeing)

Wed 24th ***Church and Office closed***

Thurs 25th ***The Conversion of St Paul, The Apostle***

 10:00 Holy Rood Year 4 Family Mass

Fri 26th ***Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops***

 09:15 Kevin Cummins R.I.P.

Sat 27th ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

08:30 Confessions/Exposition/Adoration

 09:00 John McGing (14th Anniv.)

 12:00 Baptism: F McMahon

 18:00 Maribel Niellson

Sun 28th ***Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

 09:00 Joe Heraty R.I.P.

 11:00 Joan Downey (wellbeing)

**IMPORTANT: PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

For those joining the Pilgrimage to Lourdes, please collect a form from the back of the church. **It’s important that you return the completed form to the parish office please or post directly to ‘Marian Pilgrimages, 38 Pearse St, Dublin, D02 DD83.**’ Please include your £200 cheque/card deposit and send by the end of February.

**SPUC ANNUAL APPEAL**

Thank you to all those who supported the SPUC White Flower Appeal Last Sunday; the amount raised was £240.00, which was a great result for the charity.

**Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes**

On Saturday 10th February at 2.30pm, the Cardinal will celebrate the annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Cathedral which will include anointing of the sick. Free tickets are available for those requiring the sacrament, along with tickets for any helpers.

**Annual Mass FOR Matrimony**

The Annual Mass for Matrimony; for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries, will take place on Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.

Further details will follow regarding this very popular and important celebration.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**14th January 2024**

Loose Plate £268.30 Envelopes £134.70

Standing Order for December: £3,064

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.

**CONTACTLESS DONATIONS**

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 a fast and easy way to donate.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

**Parish Groups**

# A reminder that Bingo takes place on Tuesday evenings from 5.30pm to 7pm in the Parish Hall. Thursday Tea & Coffee Club - Meet in the parish hall every Thursday after 10am Mass. Everyone welcome.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

For details, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

18th – 25th January 2024

#### Go and do likewise

Resources are available for the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Materials were prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso. The chosen theme is **‘You shall love the Lord your God… and your neighbour as yourself’** (Lk 10:27).

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>

**First Holy Communion Programme**

For those who are enrolled into the programme, the next session (Celebrating Friendship) will take place on **Saturday 27th January 2024 at 10:00** in the Parish Hall.

### **LENT EXTRA MAGAZINE**

In this year's Lent Extra magazine you will find:

 47 daily reflections to help you get ready, remain hopeful and faithful this Lent.

 Only £2.75 per copy

<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/lent-extra-2024>

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**January 23rd, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM -** Hatfield Road, Smallford, St Albans, AL40HN.
Day Trips is a programme of day-outings run by Communities 1st, aimed primarily at elderly residents and those who struggle to get out by themselves.

You will be collected from your address around 9.00 - 10.00 am, and dropped home around 1.30 - 2.00pm.

To book your seat on this trip please contact the transport team on 01727649980 or travel@communities1st.org.uk.

**LEPRA - Friday 26th January 2024 at 2:30pm in Westminster Cathedral** - LEPRA 100th Anniversary Holy Mass. All are invited.

Give Prayer a Go. The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched a new campaign to encourage people to [give prayer a go](https://catholicunion.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ce9496ddf55217db00d2d018a&id=def3a29c4b&e=f740dcc5a1) and welcome Christ into their hearts. <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/faith/giveprayerago>

**Saturday 10 February 2024 from 1:30 pm - 4:30pm**

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection at St Georges R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7HY. It will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction. All Welcome. Please call millie on 07957594646 for more info.

**Saturday 10th February 2024 - Synod 2024: 10.00** (refreshments) for 10.30 - 16.00, The Aula Magna, London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH.

**Health Walks**

Hertfordshire Health Walks - Five new walks ideal for people looking to gradually increase their fitness levels. Just turn up on the day - 15 minutes before the start or register at

<https://www.communities1st.org.uk/civicrm/mailing/url?u=43469&qid=2600786>

Thought for the week: (by Mark Twain)

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.