**St Helen’s ChuRCH**

The Harebreaks

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)

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Perseverance – yes, more and more one sees that it is the great thing. But there is a thing that must not be overlooked. Perseverance is not hanging on to some course which we have set our minds to, and refusing to let go. It is not even a matter of getting a bulldog grip on the faith and not letting the devil pry us loose from it – though many of the saints made it look that way. Really, there is something lacking in such a hope as that. Hope is a greater scandal than we think. I am coming to think that God (may he be praised in His great mystery) loves and helps best those who are so beat and have so much nothing when they come to die that it is almost as if they had persevered in nothing but had gradually lost everything, piece by piece, until there was nothing left but God. Hence perseverance is not hanging on but letting go.

by

Thomas Merton

**Sunday 28th JANUARY 2024**

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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

08:30 Confessions/Exposition/Adoration

09:00 John McGing (14th Anniv.)

12:00 Baptism: Finley McMahon

18:00 Maribel Niellson

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

09:00 Joe Heraty R.I.P.

11:00 Joan Downey (wellbeing)

Mon 29th 09:15 Anton Fernando (Anniv. death)

Tues 30th 09:15 Eucharistic Service (with Prayers for the Soul of Godfrey Mallet R.I.P.)

Wed 31st ***Church and Office closed***

Thurs 1st 10:00 Eucharistic Service (with Prayers for the Soul of Frank Noughton R.I.P.)

Fri 2nd ***The Presentation of the Lord***

 09:15 Eucharistic Service.

Sat 3rd 09:15 Eucharistic Service.

 18:00 Parishioners of St Helen’s.

Sun 4th ***Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

09:00 Nancy Healey R.I.P.

11:00 Bernadette Imelda Pearce (5th Anniv.)

**IMPORTANT: PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

A reminder for those attending the pilgrimage to please collect a form from the back of the church. **It’s important that you return the completed form to the parish office or post directly to ‘Marian Pilgrimages, 38 Pearse St, Dublin, D02 DD83 before the end of February please.**’ Please include your £200 cheque/card deposit. Thank you.

**Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes with ANOITING**

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. We have some free tickets available for those requiring the sacrament. Please let us know if you would like any: tel. 01923 223175 or watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

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

**50/50 FUND renewal**

The current year’s fund will be ending soon and it will then be time to renew your membership for the next year. Watch this space!

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**21st January 2024**

Loose Plate £322.39 Envelopes £97.50

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.

**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.

Annual Marriage Week runs from 7th to 14th February 2024 this year.

**Racial Justice Sunday 2024**

Racial Justice Sunday is today. The theme “Seeing One Another in the Life of the Church” celebrates the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives and seeks to promote reflection, discussion and action on our theme and to encourage us. Resources can be found on the CBCEW website at: [www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday)

**BRING & SHARE**

The next ‘Bring and Share’ will take place on **Sunday 18th February 2024 from 12:00 – 3:00pm** in the Parish Hall (following 11:00 Mass in the church). It’s a great opportunity to get together to share friendship and good food. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Come and See Weekends**

The Sisters at Holy Cross Abbey continue this venture of God and will be hosting two ‘Come and See’ Weekends this year:
1) Friday 24th May to Monday 27th May
2) Friday 16th August to Monday 19th August

For enquiries and registration, please email us at
comeandseehca@gmail.com

**Parish Groups**

# A reminder that Bingo takes place on Tuesday evenings from 5.30pm to 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. On Thursday the ‘Tea & Coffee’ Club meet in the parish hall after 10:00 Mass. Everyone welcome.

### **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. £2.75 per copy

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

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**Monday 5th February 2024. Grow Your Own Sunshine - Family Activity & Learning Sessions,** An inclusive community gardening project for all ages taking place as part of "[Feeling Good Week](https://www.communities1st.org.uk/civicrm/mailing/url?u=43932&qid=2630542)". Come rain or shine, there will be gardening activities outdoors and indoors, talks and exercises, health checks and complimentary refreshments for everyone! Activities will include seed planting, preparing planters and baskets for spring, building bug hotels/bird feeders and decorating plant pots. Borehamwood - Farriers way. See <https://www.communities1st.org.uk/grow-sunshine>.

**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.

Thought for the week: (by Mark Twain)

With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate, and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity.