**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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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**

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.

**Sunday 7th JANUARY 2024**

[*The Epiphany of the Lord*](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=9cdfa5b82ac57630JmltdHM9MTcwMzYzNTIwMCZpZ3VpZD0zN2QyMTIzOC1kODA1LTYyYjAtMmE5My0wMDUwZDllNTYzNGMmaW5zaWQ9NTIxOA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=37d21238-d805-62b0-2a93-0050d9e5634c&psq=7th+january+2024+liturgical+calendar&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuY2F0aG9saWNjdWx0dXJlLm9yZy9jdWx0dXJlL2xpdHVyZ2ljYWx5ZWFyL2NhbGVuZGFyL2RheS5jZm0_ZGF0ZT0yMDI0LTAxLTA3&ntb=1)

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 6th 09:15 Eddie Sharkey (Anniv.)

 11:00 Baptism: Alexander Spark

 18:00 Steve Wiles, R.I.P (17th Anniv.)

Sun 7th 09:00 Bridie O’Shea (Anniv.)

 11:00 Mary Welsh (Anniv.)

Mon 8th ***The Baptism of the Lord***

 09:15 Charlotte Coleman R.I.P

Tue 9th  09:15 Jan Mondzelewski (15th Anniv.)

Wed 10th **Church and Office closed**

Thurs 11th  10:00 Holyrood (Year 6) Family Mass

Fri 12th ***St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot***

09:15 Daisy Lowositzova R.I.P.

Sat 13th ***St Hilary, Bishop***

 09:15 Emanuel Int.

 18:00 Margaret Watson (wellbeing)

Sun 14th ***Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***

 09:00 Maria-Isabel R.I.P.

11:00 Mary & Tom Conlon R.I.P.

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – MAY 2024**

If you wish to join the Pilgrimage to Lourdes from

St Helen’s, forms are now available at the back of the church. Please return the completed form to the parish office 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. The pilgrimage dates are 30th May – 3rd June 2024 (5 nights), at a cost of £720 (full board) per person sharing (+ single supplement). Thank you.

**ST HELEN’S 50–50 FUND DECEMBER 2023**

**DRAW WINNERS**

1st Prize: £50: Richard Lloyd No. 86

2nd Prize: £35: Joan Vincent No. 108

3rd Prize: £20: Barbara Holdsworth, No. 48

**Congratulations to all of our winners!**

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**24th December 2023**

Loose Plate £560.97 Envelopes £135.00

**31st December 2023**

Loose Plate £273.20 Envelopes £123.00

Standing Order for November: £3,184

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.

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL**

The White Flower Appeal will take place at all weekend Masses on 13th and 14th January. This is a great cause to protect the unborn children.

## **PEACE SUNDAY 2024**

Peace Sunday 2024 is on Sunday 14 January and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is ‘Artificial Intelligence and Peace’. Pax Christi have produced a series of resources to mark the day; <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday/>

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**Monday 8th January:** Creative Community Cafes at Windsor Hall, Borehamwood (10.30am - 2.30pm), NHS Health Check at Healthy Hub in Leeming Road, Borehamwood. Please contact the hub (020 3559 3559) to book it.

**Monday 15 January, 18.00 Catholic Union Pub Talk, Morpeth Arms, 58 Millbank, Pimlico** with Conservative MP, [Sir Iain Duncan Smith](https://catholicunion.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ce9496ddf55217db00d2d018a&id=9fc6e4844a&e=f740dcc5a1). Topic “China, the Church, and Christian persecution”.  It’s free to attend, but please register as spaces are limited: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/catholic-union-pub-talksign up. The  Morpeth Arms has a fascinating [history](https://catholicunion.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ce9496ddf55217db00d2d018a&id=90b84ecac7&e=f740dcc5a1) of prisoners, spies and haunting!

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

All are invited.

**Saturday 10th February 2024 - Synod 2024 –at 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)

#### Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would rather have talked.