**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 11th FEBRUARY 2024**

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 10th ***Saint Scholastica, Virgin***

 09:15 Patrick Green (R.I.P.)

 18:00 Margaret Plunk (R.I.P.)

Sun 11th ***World Day of the Sick***

09:00 Mary O’Connor (R.I.P Anniv.)

11:00 Andreas Chungong (R.I.P Anniv.)

Mon 12th 09:15 Novena of Masses for Holy Souls

Tues 13th ***09:15 Honeria McKeown R.I.P.***

Wed 14th ***Ash Wednesday – Day of Fast & Abstinence***

09:15 Helen O’Shea Anniv*.*

 Sacramental receiving of ashes

 19:00 Sacramental receiving of ashes

Thur 15th 10:00 Kevin walsh Anniv.

Fri 16th 09:15 Margaret

Sat 17th 09:15 Margaret Plunk R.I.P.

 18:00 Helen Benita Brown R.I.P.

Sun 18th ***First Sunday of Lent***

09:00 Elias Atanga R.I.P (Anniv.)

11:00 Matthew Punnamkuzhy (Anniv.)

**IMPORTANT: PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

There are still places available for the pilgrimage to Lourdes but please book as soon as you can. Forms can be found on the table at the back of the church. **You must 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 include your £200 cheque/card deposit. Thank you.

**BRING & SHARE**

The ‘Bring and Share’ will take place next **Sunday 18th February 2024 from 12:00 – 3:00pm** in the Parish Hall (following 11:00 Mass in the church). Please join us in sharing friendship and good food.

***Thank you for your support.***

**Cardinal's Lenten Alms Appeal**

Please show your support for the Cardinal’s Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Please take a donation envelope from the back of the church. You can also use the QR code to make your donation online. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford.

***Thank you for your support.***

### **LENT EXTRA MAGAZINE**

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>

**50/50 FUND - DRAW & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

The 50/50 draw for January will be held Today. Sorry for the delay with this one.

The current year concludes on 24/03/2024 with the final draw. You can enrol now for April. Application Forms with envelopes are available from the Hall Lobby. Completed forms can be returned by post or put through the Presbytery letterbox. 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.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 4th February 2024**

Planned Giving £106.70 Loose Plate £394.91

Standing Orders 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.

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***

**CONTACTLESS MACHINE**

**Please note**: We currently have a technical glitch with the contactless machine. We hope to have it up and running as soon as possible. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**Annual Mass FOR Matrimony**

The annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony will be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2.30pm. The Cardinal is inviting all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If this applies to you, please email the following details (husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) – to watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk by 8th April please.

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

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME**

Details of this year’s Confirmation Programme with Deacon Liam are to follow.

**JOB VACANCIES – WESTMINSTER DIOCESE**

Please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> for latest roles.

**Appeal for Volunteers**

We need more volunteers to assist with a variety of roles in the parish. If you can help, please email watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk or tel. 01923 223175. Any time you can spare to help your church, will be hugely appreciated. Thank you.

**Parish Groups**

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

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**Monday 26th February, 1pm - 4pm**

**Aberford Community Centre, Borehamwood!**

Our Health Matters - Support for Wellbeing Event. Talks, exercises, health checks, and free refreshments. Attendees include: Alzheimer's Society, Manor View Practice, The Grove Medical Centre, Hertfordshire Mind Network, Music for My Mind and more. See <https://www.communities1st.org.uk/HealthMatters>

**Friday 1st March at 2pm** – Join us on the World Day of Prayer at The Scroll Church, on the corner of the Harebreaks and St Albans Road. Prayers will be followed by refreshments.

**Saturday 2nd March, 10am – 5:30pm** – A Day with Mary, Our Lady & St Michael, Crown Rise, Garston, Watford.

Thought for the week: (by Oscar Wilde)

Everyone may not be good, but there's always something good in everyone. Never judge anyone shortly because every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.