**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

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT**

The Stations will be said after Mass on Friday.

**Sunday 18th FEBRUARY 2024**

*First Sunday Of Lent*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 17th 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

 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.)

Mon 19th 09:15 May Alice Brown R.I.P.

Tues 20th ***09:15*** Bernadette Cockery R.I.P.

 Followed by Exposition & Adoration

Wed 21st ***CHURCH AND OFFICE CLOSED***

Thur 22nd ***The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle***

 10:00 Jim & Ann Earley

Fri 23rd ***Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr***

 09:15 Kevin Cummins R.I.P.

 ***Stations of the cross follows Mass***

Sat 24th 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

 09:15 Ferdinand Dike (Anniversary)

 13:00 Baptism: Edward Machicado

 18:00 Mr & Mrs Gabriel Moral (20th wedding Anniv.)

Sun 25th ***Second Sunday of Lent***

09:00 Mass for the living, continuous good health & safety – Edward Drutte Haynes and all the family

 11:00 Myra Haynes & Joshua Dowell

**IMPORTANT: PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

Time is running out if you wish to attend the pilgrimage to Lourdes, but it’s not too late. Forms can be found on the table at the back of the church. Please complete as soon as you can and return **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**

A reminder of the ‘Bring and Share’ taking place today **from 12:00 – 3:00pm** in the Parish Hall (following 11:00 Mass in the church). Please join us for friendship and the sharing of good food. All welcome.

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

**CONFIRMATION 2024**

Applications are invited from young people in school Year 9 and above, to apply. Enrolment forms are available from the Hall Lobby or can be downloaded from our web site. The programme will begin on Wednesday 1st May 2024 from 7pm to 8pm (please see website for full dates). The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Friday 21st June 2024 at 7pm. Closing date for applications is 01/04/2024.

**Cardinal's Lenten Alms Appeal**

Please show your support by taking a donation envelope from the back of the church. You can also use the QR code to donate online. Cardinal Nichols is truly grateful for your support. ***Thank you.***

### **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 - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/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. The current year concludes on 24/03/2024 with the final draw. Thank you.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

Baptismal preparation takes place on the third Saturday of the month, in the Parish Hall at 10.00 with Deacon Liam. If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 11th February 2024**

Planned Giving £151.90 Loose Plate £291.40

Standing Orders for January: £3,407

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. Please email the following details (husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number) to watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk **by 8th April please.**

**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.

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**Friday 23rd February is CAFOD’s Family Fast Day**. It is a significant event observed during Lent. On this day, people come together to reflect on the challenges faced by those who struggle to put food on their tables. It’s a time to raise awareness and take action to alleviate hunger and poverty. Please give whatever you can spare during this appeal. Thank you.

**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.

**Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm** - As part of its Lenten devotions, Westminster Cathedral Choir will perform J.S. Bach’s St John Passion. Tickets (£45/35/20) are available via Ticketmaster. The Cathedral Choir will be conducted by Simon Johnson, the Cathedral’s Master of Music, accompanied by a Baroque orchestra and soloists James Gilchrist (as the Evangelist) and William Thomas (Christus). Further details to follow.

Thoughts for the week: (by Oscar Wilde)

Life is too important to be taken seriously.

Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead.