**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)

[www.rcdow.org.uk/watfordnorth](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/watfordnorth)

[facebook.com/sthelenswatford](http://www.facebook.com/sthelenswatford)

[instagram.com/sthelenswatford](http://www.instagram.com/sthelenswatford)

 [twitter.com/sthelenswatford](http://www.twitter.com/sthelenswatford)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 4th FEBRUARY 2024**

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 3rd ***Saints Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury (Diocesan)***

 09:15 Eucharistic Service

 18:00 Parishioners of St Helen’s

Sun 4th 09:00 Nancy Healey (R.I.P.)

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

Mon 5th ***Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr***

 09:15 No Mass

Tues 6th ***Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs***

 09:15 Eucharistic Service

Wed 7th ***Church and Office closed***

Thurs 8th ***Saint Jerome Emiliani***

 10:00 Eucharistic Service

Fri 9th 09:15 Tony McGovern (R.I.P.)

12:00 Funeral: Kevin Cummins

Sat 10th 09:15 Patrick Green (R.I.P.)

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

Sun 11th ***Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

09:00 Mary O’Connor (R.I.P Anniv.)

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

**IMPORTANT: PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

A reminder for those attending the pilgrimage to please collect a form from the table at 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 (including anointing of the sick) in the Cathedral. Free tickets are available via tel. 01923 223175 or watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you.

**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.

**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**

**28th January 2024**

Loose Plate £265.69 Envelopes £126.00

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 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.

**50/50 FUND - MONTHLY DRAW AND**

 **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

The 50/50 draw for January will be held on **Sunday 11th February 2024**. Sorry for the delay with this one.

The current year concludes on 24/03/2024 with the final draw. We are enrolling for the new year which begins in April. Application Forms with envelopes will be available from next weekend, from the Hall Lobby. Completed forms can be returned by post or popped through the Presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

**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.

**Appeal for Volunteers**

We really 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.

### **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>

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

**Monday 5th February 2024. Grow Your Own Sunshine - Family Activity & Learning Sessions (3.30 - 5.30pm.),** 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)". Talks/exercises/health checks/refreshments. Borehamwood - Farriers way. <https://www.communities1st.org.uk/grow-sunshine>.

**Saturday 10th February at 2.30pm**, Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes with Anoiting, Westminster Cathedral.

Francis Street, [Westminster](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=9ae2f4bb2d0bd8ebJmltdHM9MTcwNjgzMjAwMCZpZ3VpZD0yNjZlZDQxMC1jZjUwLTY5NjEtMjY3ZC1jNjc2Y2VlYjY4YzgmaW5zaWQ9NTgyOA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=266ed410-cf50-6961-267d-c676ceeb68c8&u=a1L3NlYXJjaD9GT1JNPVNOQVBTVCZxPVdlc3RtaW5zdGVyJmZpbHRlcnM9c2lkOiI2M2NlODI5NC1lNTcxLTcyODItNzVhYS0yMDVlZmQ0MjVhMjIi&ntb=1) · London, [SW1](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=1dc61ac78c2a97a0JmltdHM9MTcwNjgzMjAwMCZpZ3VpZD0yNjZlZDQxMC1jZjUwLTY5NjEtMjY3ZC1jNjc2Y2VlYjY4YzgmaW5zaWQ9NTgyOQ&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=266ed410-cf50-6961-267d-c676ceeb68c8&u=a1L3NlYXJjaD9GT1JNPVNOQVBTVCZxPVNXMSZmaWx0ZXJzPXNpZDoiNTJmNGNmZmEtOTlkZC04MzNjLTZkY2YtMDZkOTI2YzE3NTI2Ig&ntb=1). Closest tube station is Victoria.

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

**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>

Thought for the week: (by Albert Einstein)

[Learn](https://www.azquotes.com/quote/565614) from yesterday,

live for today,

hope for tomorrow.

The important thing

is not to stop questioning.