**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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The Christian life, Christian worship, Christian community, the Eucharist, all these have been obscured by a limited ritualistic piety that insists on treating the Risen Lord as if he were a dead body, a holy object, not Spirit and Life, and Son of the Living God.

Today, let us come with faith to the banquet of the Lamb, the Risen Savior, to the Bread of Life that is not the food of the dead but the true and Risen Body of Christ. He who encounters the Risen Christ in the banquet of his Body and Blood will live forever! Come, People of God, Christ our Passover is sacrificed, and in sharing his banquet we pass with him from death to life! He has risen… he is going before us into his Kingdom!

Alleluia!

 by

Thomas Merton

**Sunday 28th APRIL 2024**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 27th 08:30 Confession/Exposition/Adoration

 09:00 Fr John Michael Warnaby

 18:00 Barney Power, 3rd Anniv (R.I.P.) Sun 28th ***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

 09:00 Peter & Gladys Niciecki

 11:00 Danielle & Philippe NG SEE Cheong Anniv. (R.I.P.)

Mon 29th ***Saint Catherine of Siena***

 09:15 **NO MASS**

 10:30 Funeral: Eileen Coen

Tues 30th ***Saint Pius V, Pope***

 09:15 Mary Anne McCarthy: b/day Anniv.

 Followed by Exposition & Adoration

Wed 1st ***Church and Office closed***

Thurs 2nd ***Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor***

 10:00 Tony Dunne R.I.P.

Fri 3rd ***Saints PHILIP and JAMES, APOSTLES***

 09:15 Eileen Ryan R.I.P. (6th Anniv.)

Sat 4th ***THE ENGLISH MARTYRS***

 08:30Confession/Exposition/Adoration

 09:15 Leonard Cohen R.I.P.

 18:00 Michael Donnelly (4th Anniv.)

Sun 5th  ***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

 09:00Devika (wellbeing)

 11:00 Angela Whelehan (B/Day Anniv.)

**MARY’S MEALS** 

Next weekend, Mary’s Meals will be making an appeal for foreign currency (including UK coins/notes not legal tender, no matter how old or obscure). Please use the envelopes provided. Mary’s Meals feeds over 2.4 million children - in over 18 countries daily. This will help them to feed more. ***Thank you for your support.***

**PLANNED GIVING**

As part of the ‘Planned Giving Initiative’, please consider giving by Standing Order. ***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. To book, please email the Parish Office watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS (2nd May 2024)**

On Thursday 2nd May 2024, the parish hall will be used as a Polling Station and so there will be no tea/ coffee following Mass.

**A Year of Encounter**

With a UK general election due sometime this year, we have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at key moments. See **cafod.org.uk/encounter** for more info, including online session 4th May.

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – 30th MAY 2024**

For those joining the Pilgrimage from St Helen’s to Lourdes, please pay your balance to Marian Pilgrimages. You can still book by calling Noeleen on **020 3808 5156.**  Thank you.

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BRAZILIAN THEMED

PARTY!!

On Saturday 4th May 2024, from 6pm in the parish hall, there will be a Brazilian Themed Party. Tickets cost £5.00 with a Brazilian hot dog included in the price. Tea/coffee and cold drinks will be available or bring your own! There will be music and a raffle. For tickets or enquiries, call Margaret on 07812 819920 or email Heneghan.margaret@yahoo.co.uk. You can also get tickets on the night! **Everyone welcome!**

**St Helen's 50/50 Fund**

**You can still sign up. The 50/50 Fund is a great way to support charities whilst giving you the chance to win a monthly prize.** Membership (for over 18’s) costs just £26 for the year. Find application forms at the back of the church or in the hall lobby.

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

**Scam warning about QR codes**

HCC’s Trading Standards team is advising residents to be vigilant when scanning QR codes. Take particular care when making payments or downloading apps from QR codes. Ensure the code is linked to a reputable company or organisation and when you scan, pay attention to the URL that it leads to.

**Saturday 1st June 2024, 11am to 4:30pm**. The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Please call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information.

**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.

# There is tea & coffee in the hall on Sundays following 09.00 & 11.00 Masses. It would be good to see some new faces! Everyone is welcome.

**CAFOD Pilgrimage**

CAFOD is organising a pilgrimage for young adults aged between 18- 40 from Friday 12th – Sunday 14th July, in this year of prayer and lead up to the year of Jubilee. The pilgrimage will include a two-night stay. For more info see: [Young Adults Residential Pilgrimage (cafod.org.uk)](https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/sponsored-challenge-events/pilgrimages/young-adults-residential-pilgrimage)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**

**Sunday 21st April 2024**

Planned Giving: £88.00 Loose Plate: £254.26

Standing Orders for March: £3,019

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***

**UPCOMING 2024 PARISH EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date  | Time | Event |
| Saturday 4th May | 6pm | Brazilian Event |
| Saturday 29th June | 12-2pm | Summer fayre |
| Sunday 30th June | 2-4pm | SVP midsummer’s tea party, St Michael’s Hall |

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024**

*Deacon Liam has sent out a ‘welcome’ email.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Session | Date | Time |  |
| 1 | 01/05/24 | 7-8pm |  |
| 2 | 08/05/24 | 7-8pm |  |
| 3 | 15/05/24 | 7-8pm |  |
| 4 | 22/05/24 | 7-8pm |  |
|  | 29/05/24 HALF-TERM |
| 5 | 05/06/24 | 7-8pm |
| 6 | 12/06/24 | 7-8PM |  |
| 19/06/24, 7-8PM - REHEARSAL (with parents & sponsors. |
| 21/06/24, 7-8PM - CONFIRMATION CEREMONY WITH BISHOP PAUL |

Thought for the week: (by Khalil Gibran)

Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars.