



ST HELEN'S CHURCH

The Harebreaks

Watford WD24 6NJ

01923 223175

watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk

Priest of the Diocese

Father Voy

& Deacon Liam Lynch

Secretary: Shirlie Halladey

(office hours: Tues & Thurs (10am-3pm),

Fri (10am – 4pm)

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

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(OF THE WORD OF GOD)

YEAR C

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat 25 th	THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE 09:15 Zara Reekhaye & family 18:00 Our Parishioners
Sun 26 th	09:00 Anne McGuire (Private Int.) 11:00 Alice Ginty (9 th Anniv.)
Mon 27 th	Saint Angela Merici, Virgin 09:15 Charles Walter McKnight R.I.P and Fr Sean Murphy R.I.P.
Tues 28 th	Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor 09:15 Aleksandra Kasperczyk (Health & Thanksgiving and for patience for her carers).
Wed 29 th	Church and Office closed
Thurs 30 th	10:00 Michael Ryan (R.I.P. Anniv.)
Fri 31 st	Saint John Bosco, Priest 09:15 Lynsey de Paul R.I.P. 16:00 Funeral Mass (details TBA)
Sat 1 st	Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday 09:15 John McGing Anniv. 11:00 Baptism: Cassius Abraham Kolade McGowan-Adigun 18:00 Selina Reekhaye
Sun 2 nd	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 09:00 Tim Hartnett R.I.P. 11:00 Samantha Landy 12:00 Baptism: Cody Pitt

HOLY ROOD SCHOOL AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH

On Thursday 30th January 2025, pupils from Holy Rood School will be attending for family Mass, offertory procession, first reading and bidding prayers.

MASS FOR THE SICK

On Saturday 8th of February 2025 there will be a **Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2pm**, celebrated by the H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. If you would like any tickets, please email the parish secretary: watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk or tel 01923 223175, stating which tickets you require i.e:

1. Wheelchair user who requires anointing.
 2. Walking sick who requires anointing.
 3. Assisting the sick (do not require anointing).
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BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Baptismal preparation usually takes place on the first 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.

ALPHA COURSE – WEDNESDAY’S at 7:30pm

A reminder that the Alpha course is taking place on Wednesdays. At each session, you’ll be hosted in a small group and watch an episode on a different question of faith – then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. Join us in the parish hall for a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone welcome.

MARRIAGE CARE

Willing to help couples forge a lifelong loving relationship? Marriage Care is a charity that runs marriage preparation courses for couples marrying in a Catholic church, and is looking for new course facilitators. Training is provided, and volunteers will join the local Centre. For more information, please call Karen on 0800 389 3801 (09:00–17:00, Mon – Thurs) or visit our website at:

<https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/mpcf/> .

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR Sunday 19th January 2025

Planned Giving: £112.84: Loose Plate: £319.34
Standing Orders/contactless/online
for December: £3,554.00

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.

50/50 FUND RENEWAL

The current year’s fund will be ending soon and it will be time to renew your membership for the next year. Watch this space!

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.

WELCOME AND PARISH GROUPS

A warm welcome to all those who have recently joined our church. A reminder that Bingo takes place 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 also tea & coffee in the parish hall on Sundays following the 09.00 & 11.00 Masses. **Everyone is welcome.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME (FHC)

For those enrolled in the FHC programme, session 2 takes place on Saturday 1st February 2025 from 10:30 – 11:30 in the Parish Hall.

DIARY OF EVENTS

WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE

If you want to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and the Catholic faith, please attend the National Conference Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible. Tickets are available for Fri/Sat (21st-22nd Feb 2025, £109 or a day pass for Saturday (£79). Excel Centre, East London. Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Profes. Tracey Rowland, Archbishop John Wilson: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event.

RETREAT

Friday 7th March to Sunday 9th March 2025.
Fr Marinko Šakota OFM, the former parish priest of St James, Medjugorje, will lead the Medjugorje Apostolate Annual Retreat at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton, London. **Please see poster for details.**

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH: EDITH STEIN, 14 – 16 MARCH 2025

Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend exploring the life and teachings of Edith Stein, or St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, and her indomitable search for truth that led her to the Catholic faith.

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-search-for-truth-edith-stein/>

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

This trip takes place from **11th to 18th June 2025**. 7 days Full Board. Daily Mass and Rosary, spiritual talks, tour of Fatima Shrine and lots more. Cost is £895.00 pp, twin room. £995.00 single room. £300 deposit to be sent with application. Balance to be paid by 9th April 2025. BA flight from London Heathrow. Booking form available from www.adaywithmary.org or call 020 86416418.

Thought for the week: (by Thomas Merton)

For whatever is demanded by truth, by justice, by mercy, or by love must surely be taken to be willed by God.
