



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

facebook.com/sthelenswatford

instagram.com/sthelenswatford

twitter.com/sthelenswatford

SUNDAY 23RD MARCH 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR C

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|--|
| Sat 22 nd | 08:30 | Confession/Exposition/Adoration |
| | 09:15 | Mr C.Y. Varghese Panicker (R.I.P. Anniv.) |
| | 12:00 | Baptism: A. Appiah |
| | 18:00 | Mr & Mrs O'Connor int. |
| Sun 23 rd | 09:00 | Matthew Adrian Brown (Thanksgiving & for health & blessing for Holiness) |
| | 11:00 | The Cullen family (wellbeing) |
| Mon 24 th | 09:15 | Anne Dawson (40 th Anniv. R.I.P.) |
| Tues 25 th | | THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD |
| | 09:15 | NO MASS. |
| Wed 26 th | | Church and Office closed |
| Thurs 27 th | 10:00 | Scaria Joseph (Anniv.) |
| Fri 28 th | 09:15 | Daisy Wordsworth R.I.P. Stations of the cross follows Mass |
| Sat 29 th | 08:30 | Confession/Exposition/Adoration |
| | 09:15 | Angela Whelehan (9 th Anniv.) |
| | 18:00 | Parishioners of our parish |
| Sun 30 th | | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT |
| | 09:00 | Mary Holt R.I.P. |
| | 11:00 | Joe Heraty R.I.P. |

*But the language of
Christianity has been so used
and so misused that sometimes
you distrust it: you do not
know whether or not behind
the word 'Cross' there stands
the experience of mercy and
salvation, or only the threat of
punishment. If my word
means anything to you, I can
say to you that I have
experienced the Cross to mean
mercy and not cruelty, truth
and not deception: that the
news of the truth and love of
Jesus is indeed the true good
news, but in our time it speaks
out in strange places.*

by

Thomas Merton

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2025

This Holy Year invites us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We invite you to consider supporting work being done in the Diocese of Westminster to bring hope to many lives. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, is really grateful for your contributions which will help fund vital projects across our Diocese. Donation envelopes are available from the church or please donate online at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinals-appeal/>.

Thank you for your kindness and support.

VISIT BY BISHOP PAUL

Thank you all for making Bishop Paul feel so welcome during his visit last weekend. Thank you also for your amazing support for our 'Bring & Share' event. A good time was had by all. **Fr Voy.**

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

The next baptismal preparation session will take place on Saturday 3rd May 2025, in the Parish Hall at 10.00 with Deacon Liam. To book, please email the Parish Office: watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk with your details.

ST HELEN'S QUIZ OF QUIZ SHOWS

Save the date! The next St Helen's Quiz Night is on Saturday 26th April 2025.

For the youngsters (ages 8-12)

Grow Holy in Lent

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Lent is the perfect season to look at our lives honestly and ask 'am I sharing love and kindness with others?' In the Gospel, Jesus shares a beautiful parable that helps us understand that he is always ready to help us grow. Sr Therese explains that Jesus believes that we can be the people we were made to be, that we can be holy. Sister leads us in prayer, picturing Jesus standing before us. We then join Angel and sing one of our favourite hymns 'Here I Am Lord.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15-Vyliwp3c>

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR
Sunday 16th March 2025**

Planned Giving: £90.65 Loose Plate: £491.50
Standing Orders/contactless/online
for February: £3,251.00

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.

RCIA

Today, the Catechumens who are preparing for their baptism, confirmation and also First Holy Communion at Easter Vigil, will celebrate their 'First Scrutiny'. This is the ancient rite for Catechumens to help them to strengthen their intention to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. *We wish them well.*

EASTER CARDS (HOLY CROSS ABBEY)

St Helen's Church has long supported the 'sisters' at Holy Cross Abbey. If you would like to purchase their Easter cards, please see:

<https://www.hcawhitland.co.uk/shop>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME (FHC)

The next session (6) takes place on Saturday 29th March 2025 from 10:30 – 11:30 in the Parish Hall.

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Matrimony,
Westminster Cathedral, 17/05/25 at 2:30pm**

The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th+ wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. Please give your parish: husband & wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email). Email watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk or call 01923 223175.

[Thought for the week: \(by Thomas Merton\)](#)

If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed - but hate these things in yourself, not in another.

DIARY OF EVENTS

HEALING MASS

FRIDAY 28TH March at 7pm. Holy Rood Church, Market Street, Watford. All welcome.

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

A Mass for bereaved parents will be celebrated in the Cathedral by Bishop Paul McAleenan on **Saturday 5th April at 2pm.** If you or anyone you know (individuals, couples/families) might find comfort in attending, please invite them. Thank you.

A DAY WITH MARY

A Day With Mary is taking place at 'Our Lady & St Michael, Crown Rise, Garston, Watford, on **Saturday 12th April 2025.** All welcome.

WINTERSHALL PLAYS

Wintershall's annual performances of the Passion of Christ takes place in Trafalgar Square on Good Friday, 18th April 2025. Please visit www.wintershall.org.uk for details of this and their play 'The Life of Christ' which is being staged at Wintershall from 17th -21st June 2025.

PILGRIMAGE TO ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE, WARE

Cardinal Nichols will lead a Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware, on Saturday 12th July and all are encouraged and invited to attend. The day will commence with Mass in the grounds at 12noon. Further information about this and a poster will soon be available.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Confirmation enrolment is available now until Friday 4th April 2025 (end of school term). Please pick up a form from the church, office or print from our website. Please return completed form to the parish office (or put through presbytery letterbox (in an envelope with donation) when office is closed.

We ask for a £10 per child donation to cover the cost of materials for the programme.

| Session | Date | Time | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 23/04/25 | 7-8pm | |
| | 30/04/25 | - NO SESSION, POLLING DAY PREP | |
| 2 | 07/05/25 | 7-8pm | |
| 3 | 14/05/25 | 7-8pm | |
| 4 | 21/05/25 | 7-8pm | |
| | 28/05/25 - NO SESSION, (HALF-TERM) | | |
| 5 | 04/06/25 | 7-8pm | |
| 6 | 11/06/25 | 7 until 8:30PM | |
| 18/06/25, 7-8PM - REHEARSAL (Parent or sponsor required to attend). | | | |
| 20/06/25, 7PM - CONFIRMATION CEREMONY WITH BISHOP PAUL | | | |