



## ST HELEN'S CHURCH

The Harebreaks  
Watford WD24 6NJ  
01923 223175

[watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk)

Priest of the Diocese

**Father Voy**

& Deacon Liam Lynch

**Secretary:** Edla Sa Cordeiro

(office hours: Tues & Fri (10am-3pm),  
Thurs (9am – 3pm)

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*The world is going through a terrible spiritual crisis and we all have to suffer for the stupidity of the past centuries and for our own. Sometimes I think that only the psalms and the prophets and Job can articulate our anguish in an adequate way.*

*Christ Himself who suffered in them, is suffering in us. All humanity inexorably climbs to Cavalry with the Lord, either as the repentant thief, or as the other or, what is worse, as the Pharisees.*

*As for us, I hope we are the repentant thieves, we must be very united with each other in our humility and poverty and strength – united, too, with all of history's poor, the poets of the psalms like the Indian poets. We are all Christ, and we have to know it and be witnesses of the truth and the mystery.*

*by*

*Thomas Merton*

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### CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

The Offertory collection on Christmas Day is traditional, for the benefit of priests working in parishes. Envelopes for contributions can be found in the church porch. **Thank you for your support.**

## SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2025

### Second Sunday of Advent

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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Sat 6th	<b>Saint Nicholas, Bishop</b> 09:15 Aileen Sheridan 18:00 Our Parishioners
Sun 7th	<b>Second Sunday of Advent, Year A</b> 09:00 Hanna Keane (née O'Connor) R.I.P 11:00 Jody Murphy R.I.P
Mon 8th	<b>The Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> 09:15 Our parishioners
Tues 9th	<b>Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</b> 09:15 Madge Walsh R.I.P
Wed 10th	<b>Our Lady of Loreto</b> Church and Office closed
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Saint Damascus I Pope</b> 10:00 James Ngu – Birthday
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> 09:15 Michael Mc Greevy R.I.P anniversary 16:00 First Holy Communion
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</b> 09:15 Chrise Gulesphie R.I.P 18:00 Our Parishioners
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent, Year A</b> 09:00 Our parishioners 11:00 Jim O'Shea R.I.P 12:00 Baptism : Alessio Geremia

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### ADVENT WREATH

The circular shape of the wreath represents the eternal nature of God – the circle of the wreath which has no beginning or end symbolises the eternity of God, his never-ending love. Evergreen branches represent the eternal life we find in Christ. Individual evergreen that makeup the wreath have their own meaning. Holly, pine signify immortality. Laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. Cedar signifies strength and healing. Pinecones signify life and resurrection.

Within the Advent wreath are four candles that generally represent the four weeks of the Advent season as well as "the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ".

Three candles are purple – represent time of prayer, penance and spiritual reflection. The pink candle represents joy, joyful anticipation.

2nd- The Bethlehem Candle – symbolises faith and the Peace that Jesus brings inner peace through reconciliation with God.

3rd – Shepherd's Candle – represents joy felt at the birth of Jesus.

4th Angel's Candle – symbolises love and the message of God's love.

occasionally, please get in touch by email or call 01923 223175 with your contact details.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR**  
**Sunday 30th November 2025** Planned Giving:  
 £99.07 Loose Plate: £342.50  
 Standing Orders/contactless/online  
 for October: £3,568.00  
 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.*

**THANK YOU**

My gratitude to all who organised our Parish Christmas Fair. You did great.  
 Many thanks also to all of you who came to support this parish event. A good time was had by all and the total raised was **£1,833.90** (which includes **£1,387.70** for the fayre and **£446.20** for the raffle).  
*Thank you for your efforts. Fr Voy*

**RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS**

TICKET COLOUR	TICKET NO	NAME OF THE WINNER	PRIZE
Pink	231	Angela Cormican	Voucher
Pink	440	Michelle Woolcomb	£50
Pink	92	Teresa Neill	Hamper
Lilac	274	David Connell	Prosecco
Lilac	657	Sean Fancourt	Gin liquor
Green	360	Sheila O'Brien	Toiletries
Lilac	229	Liz	Prosecco
Pink	591	David Wright	Prosecco
Pink	467	Basil Sackett	Plant

*Thank you everybody for buying raffle tickets and supporting the parish!*

**ST HELEN'S 50-50 FUND NOVEMBER 2025 DRAW WINNERS**



1<sup>st</sup> Prize: £40 - Mary Linskey, no. 80  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: £30 - Terry Hallahan, no.24  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: £20 - Janet Wood, no. 61



**Congratulations to all of our winners!**

**HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH BEAUTIFUL!**

We're organising a church cleaning evening on **Tuesday, 9 December, at 7:00 pm**, and we'd love your help. If you can spare some time, please email [watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordnorth@rcdow.org.uk) or simply come along on the night.  
 We're also looking for volunteers to join our regular church cleaning rota. If you'd like to help out

**DIARY OF EVENTS**

 **St. Helens Christmas Bring & Share** celebration on Sunday, 7th December 2025, after the 11am mass in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome — come and celebrate the season together as a parish family! 

 **St Helens Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch** will be held on Saturday the 13th of December 2025 in the parish Hall. **ENTRY WILL COMMENCE AT 12PM, and LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 12.30PM.** Please add your name to the list (stating if you need a lift) if you wish to attend. Form is available at the back of the church. 

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

DAY	SERVICE	MASS TIMINGS
Thurs 18th	Penitential Service	7.30 pm
Wed 24th	<b>Children's Christmas Mass</b> <b>Christmas Carol Service</b> <b>The Nativity of the Lord, Midnight Service</b>	6.30 pm 11.30 pm 12 am
Thurs 25th	<b>The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day service</b>	9 am, 11 am
Fri 26th	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	10 am
Sat 27th	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	10 am, 6 pm
Sun 28th	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9 am, 11 am
Mon 29th	Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr	10 am
Tues 30th	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	10 am
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Saint Sylvester I, Pope <b>Thanksgiving mass for 2025</b>	10 am 8 pm
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b>	10 am
Fri 2nd	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	9.15 am
Sat 3rd	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	9.15 am, 6 pm
Sun 4th	Second Sunday after the Nativity	9 am, 11 am