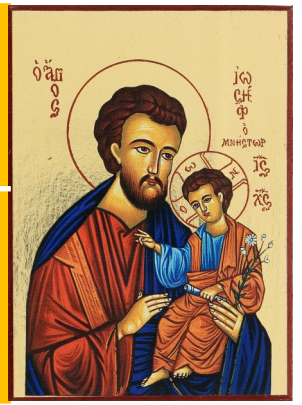




The Parishes of Northwood and Carpenders Park & South Oxhey

The Baptism of The Lord (12th January 2025)



Dear Parishioners

There are seven Sacraments in the Church and Baptism is one of the seven Sacraments. In fact, Baptism can be called the first of the seven Sacraments because with and through Baptism, we can then receive the rest of the Sacraments. And as much as Baptism is the first and necessary Sacrament, the Rite of Baptism utilizes a simple and humble element, and that is water. Whether it is Infant Baptism or Adult Baptism, water is poured three times on the head as the priest says, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Most of us are baptized that way, although some may have been baptized by immersion. Whatever it may be, both are valid forms of baptism.

The element of water is also significant for baptism. It washes away sin, gives new life, and with baptism, we share in the identity of Christ, and that is why we are officially called Christians. The water also has a special significance. It is blessed and the act of pouring water over the head symbolizes the Holy Spirit coming down upon the one who is baptized. Water is also one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit, besides fire, oil, wind and of course, the dove.

So, to be baptized and to be a Christian means that we are another Christ for others. Like Christ, we are also empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses of the Good News of salvation. Like Christ, we are called to love and to serve as Christ did. But to love and to serve as Jesus did is certainly not an easy task.

As the second reading tells us, Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil. Doing good is already challenging enough. Trying to help those who have fallen into the power of the devil is difficult.

On this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we recall and reflect on our baptism and our mission in this world. As we are baptized with water, we may want to reflect about the properties of water, and how it is relevant to our spiritual lives. Flowing water may not have a particular shape and it has a soothing feeling. Yet in the confrontation between flowing water and the rock, the flowing water will always win. Because the hard rock will be slowly worn away by the flowing water, and in the process the rock gets polished and become smooth and even pretty.

So, since we are baptized with water, then we may also need to be like water, especially when we are faced with the difficult people and situations in life. When we are faced with difficult people, let us be like water that will soften our hearts and theirs, so that there will be refreshing and soothing encounter. When we fight fire with fire, the result will only be a bigger fire that will burn and destroy. When people throw stones at us, throwing stones back will only result in sparks that will pierce and hurt.

Let us remember that in the confrontation between the flowing water and hard rock, the flowing water will win, eventually. So, let us be like the waters of our baptism, let us go with the flow of the power of the Holy Spirit, and we will be able to live up to our baptismal calling of being witnesses of the Good News of salvation.

On a personal note I wish you give two lots of thanks. Firstly, I was overwhelmed with the kindnesses that were shown to me over Christmas, your generosity and prayers were incredible. Thank you also for the gifts that Bob received - he is still enjoying many of them.

Also thank you for all your prayers, and offers of help following my recent fall. I had a week where I couldn't say Mass and I am grateful to Fr Tim Hutton for standing in for the week. Although I am back to saying Mass, unfortunately I am not working at full throttle. As a result there will be no Exposition before weekday Masses this coming week. This just allows me to have a more gentle start to the day. I have my first physio session on Wednesday so hopefully I shall know more this time next week.

With all my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tom

St Matthew's Church
32 Hallowell Road,
Northwood
HA6 1DW



You can make a
donation to either
parish by using
the appropriate
QR code.



St Joseph's Church
111 Oxhey Drive,
Watford
WD19 7SW

Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.00am -

Parish Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday: 9.00am - 3.30pm

Recent Offerings.

This will be published next week. Apologies for the delay in publishing these figures. Thank you for contributing towards the mission and running of our parishes.

Final Confessions before Christmas

Since the beginning of the New Year we have received news of the following deaths of long time parishioners.

Heather Keegan. Heather's funeral Mass will be at St Matthew's on Thursday 16th January at 11.30am in St Matthew's followed by burial at Northwood Cemetery.

Bebe Ryan. Bebe's wishes were that she would be buried with her husband in Letchworth. We will keep you informed when funeral arrangements have been finalised.

Rosalia Catolico. Rosalia's funeral Mass will be at St Matthew's on Friday 24th January at 2.30pm in St Matthew's. Her body will then be repatriated to the Philippines for burial.

We pray for their souls and their families at these difficult times.

Guide to Obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence in the Diocese of Westminster of the Jubilee Year 2025

The Holy Father declares that the gift of the Indulgence 'is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms "mercy" and "indulgence" were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds' (Spes non confundit, 23). Therefore, during the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, the 'Court of Mercy,' entrusted with all matters concerning the granting and use of indulgences, has established the following guidelines to help the faithful embrace this unique grace and render spiritually fruitful the practice of the Jubilee Indulgence (Spes non confundit, 23). The below guide provides a simple outline for the faithful in the Diocese of Westminster to obtain this plenary indulgence, without the need to travel to Rome or other pilgrimage centres around the world.

1. Understand What the Jubilee Indulgence Is

The Jubilee Indulgence is a gift of grace granted by the Church. It involves the remission of all temporal punishment due to sin for those who are:

✠ Truly repentant and free from attachment to sin. ✠ Purified through the Sacrament of Penance. ✠ Nourished by Holy Communion. ✠ Praying for the Pope's intentions.

The indulgence can also be applied to the souls in Purgatory.

2. Meet the General Conditions

Before completing any of the specific actions to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence, ensure you meet these general conditions:

✠ Go to Confession to be purified of your sins. ✠ Receive Holy Communion with reverence. ✠ Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (these prayers may include one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and a Glory Be, but any prayer for the Pope's intentions suffices).

These conditions must be fulfilled **within 20 days** before or after completing the indulgenced act.

3. Choose How to Obtain the Indulgence

You may fulfil the Jubilee requirements in any of the following ways:

A. **Make a Pilgrimage to a Sacred Jubilee Site In the Diocese of Westminster**, the following sites have been decreed as Jubilee Churches: • **Westminster Cathedral** • **St Gregory the Great, South Ruislip** • **St Mary & St Joseph, Poplar** • **Corpus Christi, Covent Garden** • **The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden** • **Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City**. You can obtain the indulgence by visiting one of these locations and: ✠ Participating in Holy Mass or other liturgical celebrations (e.g., the Liturgy of the Hours, the Rosary, or the Way of the Cross). ✠ Spending time in Eucharistic adoration and private prayer. *Include: The Our Father. The Profession of Faith (Apostles' Creed or Nicene Creed). Prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary (e.g., Hail Mary).*

B. **Perform Works of Mercy or Penance** The Jubilee Indulgence can also be gained by acts of love and sacrifice, including:
Corporal Works of Mercy: ✠ Feed the hungry, visit the sick or imprisoned, or assist those in need. ✠ Dedicate time to volunteer work or offer financial support to charitable causes. **Spiritual Works of Mercy:** ✠ Pray for the living and the dead. ✠ Comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, or patiently bear wrongs. **Friday Acts of Penance:** ✠ Fast, abstain, or refrain from unnecessary distractions (e.g., reduce use of social media). ✠ Offer donations or time to benefit others in need. Each visit or act of mercy allows for obtaining a plenary indulgence, provided the general conditions are fulfilled.

C. **Participate in Special Jubilee Activities** Attend spiritual exercises, such as: ✠ Parish missions. ✠ Catechetical sessions on the Second Vatican Council or the Catechism. ✠ Formation activities hosted in your local parish or diocese.

D. **Obtain the Indulgence Without Travelling** (for the Sick, Elderly, or Confined) For those unable to leave their homes or attend celebrations due to illness, age, or imprisonment: ✠ Recite the Our Father, the Profession of Faith, and prayers for the Holy Year (e.g., prayerfully reflecting on the Pope's messages for the Jubilee). ✠ Offer your sufferings or hardships in union with Christ.

4. Repeating the Indulgence Act Daily (Optional)

The indulgence may be obtained once per day. However, if you perform an additional act and receive Holy Communion again, you may obtain a second indulgence on the same day, but this can only be applied to the souls in Purgatory.

5. Receive the Papal Blessing

On a special day designated by Cardinal Nichols, the Papal Blessing with the attached plenary indulgence may be imparted. Participate in this celebration to receive this extraordinary grace.

Please join us in praying for those who are sick and those who have died:

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

For those who are sick: , Leslie Caesar, Mary Elizabeth Thomas, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Dave Jessop, Michael O'Brien, Brendan Davern and Shay Murray, Mary Wong, Ruby King, John Wildsmith, Cecil Swampillai, Belinda Plummer, Marilyn Theodore, Veronica Savill, , Levan Soloman, Patricia Procter, Philip Wilson, Mary Hyde, King Charles, Catherine Princess of Wales, Moira Montgomery, Patricia Lee, Eileen Wildsmith, Peter Fitzpatrick, Mark O'Connor, Marie Marron, Carol-Ann Frost, Marianne, Ada Barker, Ron Picardo, Kerry Blackburn, James Wilson, Sinead Bushnell, Audrey Potts, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

For those who have died recently: Alexandre Silva, Heather Keegan, Bebe Ryan, Rosalia Catolico Fr David Barnes, Fr Sean Carroll and all who have died as a result of violence, war and conflict or natural disaster.

For those whose anniversary occurs around this time: Gerald Allen, Patrick Purcell, Christina Donovan, Patrick Dennis O'Sullivan, Julia Murphy, Cardinal Manning, Mary Ryder, Michael Regan, Chris Sheridan, Nora May Firth, Peter Rossi, Brendan Saurin, Peggy Forde-Marshall, Gillian Teather, Thomas Franklin, Tom Ryder, Beth Anderson, William Hagan, Dominic Bradley, Gino Capitelli

Fr Seán Carroll

Last Sunday morning Fr Sean was found dead in the presbytery at Ruislip. We pray for his family and for the parish of Ruislip where Fr Sean had been parish priest for two years. His funeral arrangements are as follows.

Fr Seán's mortal remains will be received at Most Sacred Heart church, Ruislip at **4.30pm on Wednesday 29 January**. There will be a **Requiem Mass**, with Bishop James Curry presiding, at **7.00pm**. Fr Seán's **Funeral Mass** will at **12noon on Thursday 30 January** with the Cardinal presiding. and the homily given by Fr Joe Ryan.

Readings at Sunday Mass

First reading

Thus says the Lord:

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

'I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. R4*

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly powers,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
bow down before the Lord, majestic in holiness.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The voice of the Lord upon the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord full of power;
the voice of the Lord full of splendour.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The God of glory thunders;
in his temple they all cry, 'Glory!'
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Second reading

Acts 10:34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered

'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'..

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Worship this week

(Saturday)	5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions (<i>St Joseph's</i>) 6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - <i>Intentions of Danny & Catherine Foley & Family (St Joseph's)</i>
Sunday 12th <i>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i>	9.00am: Mass - <i>People of the Parishes (St Matthew's)</i> 11.00am: Mass - <i>Rafiqul Choudhry RIP (St Joseph's)</i> 6.00pm: Mass - <i>Rosa Ferreira RIP (St Matthew's)</i>
Monday 13th <i>S. Hilary</i>	09:40 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Mass - <i>Mariana Di Falco (Special Intentions) Followed By Rosary (St Matthew's)</i>
Tuesday 14th <i>Feria</i>	09:40 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Mass - <i>Breda Moore RIP Followed By Rosary (St Joseph's)</i>
Wednesday 15th <i>Feria</i>	No Public Worship
Thursday 16th <i>Feria</i>	11.30am: Funeral Mass - <i>Heather Keegan RIP (St Matthew's)</i> 7.00pm: Mass - <i>Ivan Bell and Evelyn Hadden (Birthday intentions) (St Joseph's)</i>
Friday 17th <i>S. Anthony</i>	09:40 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Mass - <i>Barbara Whitehead RIP Followed By Rosary (St Matthew's)</i>
Saturday 18th <i>Saturday Memorial of the BVM</i>	09:45 Morning Prayer Followed By Rosary 10.30am: Mass - <i>Susan Metcalfe RIP Anniversary (St Matthew's)</i> 11.00am - 11.50am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions ending with Benediction 5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions (<i>St Joseph's</i>) 6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - <i>Denise & Matthew Cunningham & family-Intns (St Joseph's)</i>
Sunday 19th <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00am: Mass - <i>Geoffery Allwright RIP (St Matthew's)</i> 11.00am: Mass - <i>People of the Parishes (St Joseph's)</i> 6.00pm: Mass - <i>Anne Temmink RIP (St Matthew's)</i>

*The 2025 diary for Mass intentions is now open.
Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to have an intention on a particular date.*

Prayer Intentions

Pope's Prayer Intention for January For the right to an education We pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected

Lamp Prayer Intentions

Blessed Sacrament (*St Matthew's*) **Fr Sean Carroll RIP** Our Lady (*St Matthew's*) **Those affected by natural disasters**
Blessed Sacrament (*St Joseph's*) **Fr David Barnes RIP**

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to sponsor a lamp for a particular prayer intention.

Parish Directory

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Or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk