

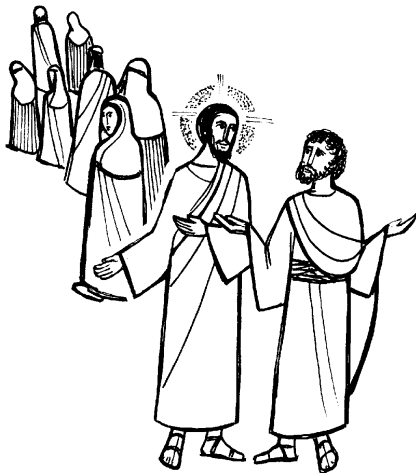
Welcome to Holy Rood

You are very welcome to our church and parish community. If you are new to Holy Rood, please introduce yourself to one of the clergy or welcomers.

Holy Rood Catholic Church, Watford.

Clergy: Fr. Paul McAleenan, Fr. John Elliott, Deacon Rev. Neville Dyckhoff
Student for the priesthood: Stuart Seaton
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Italian Chaplain: Fr. Alberto Vico - 0208 207 5713

Sunday 23rd August 2009
Twenty-first Sunday of the Year



So often, through life, we are faced with choices: doing right or wrong, being active or remaining passive, helping or hurting, choosing a job, a place to live, a community to belong to . . . and often a choice in one area will have a bearing on the choices we are able to make in other areas of our lives. Decisions can have long standing consequences, like the decisions in our readings today.

Readings: Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18. Psalm 33.
Ephesians 5:21-32. John 6:60-69.
on pages 65 - 67 of the Parish Mass Book.

Joshua asks the people to choose who they will serve; the Lord or another god. It is a decision for life and it has enduring consequences. They choose God as he, first, chose them because they recognise his care and protection. Jesus reaches the point in his ministry where people begin to drift away because they cannot accept his radical message. He acknowledges that the faith to follow him is a gift that only the Father can give. It is a gift that Simon Peter, clearly, has received.

The choice to follow Christ, to choose life, is perhaps the biggest choice we will ever make. It is the choice to allow the Spirit into our hearts to lead us and guide us. It is a choice to live in close relationship with Christ - as close and unselfish as the right relationship of husband and wife described in the second reading. Sometimes we agonise over practical choices in our lives while avoiding this most important choice of all. Do we, like the people of Israel, choose the Lord over all other gods?

MASS TIMES

Sunday Sat. 7.00 p.m. (1st Mass of Sunday)
8.00 am; 9.30 am (Sung); 11.00 am (Family); 2.15 pm (Polish); 6.30 p.m.
Holydays 8.00 am, 12.00 noon and 7.30 p.m.
Weekdays 8.30 am & 12.00 noon Saturday 11.00 am
Watford General Hospital - Mass in the chapel (level 3) -Thursday 1.15 pm
CONFESSIONS Saturday 11.30 am - 12.30 p.m.; 6.15 - 6.40 p.m.
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & BENEDICTION Saturday 6.15 - 6.40 pm
BAPTISMS by appointment. WEDDINGS - 6 months notice required

HOSPITAL In the light of the Data Protection Act 1998 please indicate on entering hospital that your details may be passed to the R.C. Chaplain. *Contact Lynn Bassett 01727 897 254.*

Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life;
Rather look to them with full hope that as they arise,
God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely
through all things;
And when you cannot stand it,
God will carry you in His arms.
Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
The same everlasting Father who cares for
you today will take care of you today and every day.
He will either shield you from suffering or will give you
unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.



St. Francis de Sales

| 22nd & 23rd August 2009 | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mass | Readers | Ministers of the Eucharist | Offertory |
| Sat 7.00pm | B. Lincoln | N. Dyckhoff | Cullen family |
| 8.00 am | J. Lankester R. McHugh | J. Bogie | Coleman family |
| 9.30 am | T. Sheridan F. Parslow | N. Dyckhoff | Di Maria family |
| 11.00 am | D. Callaghan C. Slevin | C. Maguire, I. Douglas, K. Aldous | Antonietta & Marion |
| 6.30 pm | C. Johnson | N. Dyckhoff | Murray family |
| Cleaning Team: Team D. Saturday 29th August | | | |
| Sunday Coffee: Julie Next week: Alice | | | |
| Next week we celebrate the <i>Twenty-second Sunday of the Year</i> | | | |