

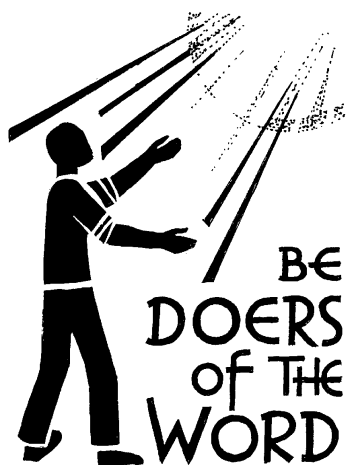
# Welcome to Holy Rood

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  
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Sunday 30th August 2009  
Twenty-second Sunday of the Year



Are you a conformist or a rebel? Do you like to keep to the rules or think outside the box? The readings today give us cause to reflect on how these natural tendencies may affect the way we respond to our religion.

The first reading seems to be quite clear. Moses insists that the people keep the laws and commandments he has given them - not wrongly, because they are good and because they are from God.

Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8. Psalm 14. James 1:17-18. 21-22. 27. Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23. on pages 67 - 69 of the Parish Mass

But, as the years passed, the people - or at least some of them - became fixated on the rules and laws, forgetting their purpose and the 'wholeness' of the Law. By the time Jesus came along the Pharisees and scribes had become so obsessed with hand-washing and ablutions that they completely missed the greater commandments to love God and neighbour.

These readings need careful interpretation. They do not offer an opportunity to pick and choose between the laws of the Church, to obey when it suits and ignore those which don't fit in with our own plans.

On the contrary, the laws are there to guide us but they must be followed in the fullness of their context.

St James sheds light on this as he encourages us to "accept and submit to the word which has been planted" in us. Properly interpreted, the law will help us to care for those less well off whilst keeping ourselves focused of Christ and "uncontaminated by the world".

## 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 - No Mass until further notice  
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. *If you or a relative is admitted to hospital contact the chaplaincy team on 01727 897 254.*

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road through I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

*Thomas Merton*

29th & 30th August 2009			
Mass	Readers	Ministers of the Eucharist	Offertory
<b>Sat 7.00pm</b>	J. Harris	N. Dyckhoff	L. Joyce
<b>8.00 am</b>	J. Briginshaw	E. Timmons	Hinton family
<b>9.30 am</b>	S. Varghese M. Clarke-Gonsalves	N. Dyckhoff	M. Griffin
<b>11.00 am</b>	M. Thurlow	M. Ellwood, C. Polidario, J. Morgan	Anna Mitchell & family
<b>6.30 pm</b>	A. Fusi A. Fusi	N. Dyckhoff	Garibaldi family
<b>Cleaning Team:</b> Team A Saturday 5th September			
<b>Sunday Coffee:</b> Alice Next week: David & Ruth			
Next week we celebrate the <i>Twenty-third Sunday of the Year</i>			