



# 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 6th September 2009  
Twenty-third Sunday of the Year



"Ephphatha" - "Be opened", such a small and simple statement, but with this one word Jesus healed the deaf and dumb man in today's Gospel story. Not only did this miracle enable the man to speak clearly, we hear that it "loosened" the tongues of the crowd that followed him and there was no silencing them. They were full of admiration. They said "He has done all things well".

Readings: Isaiah 35:4-7. Psalm 145.  
James 2:1-5. Mark 7: 31-37  
on pages 69 - 71 of the Parish Mass Book.

This instance of healing is just one of many. It resonates with the prophecy of Isaiah who tells us that the coming of God will not only "unseal" the ears of the deaf and enable the dumb to "sing for joy" but also open the "eyes of the blind" and allow the lame to "leap like a deer". How wonderful is our God! No wonder the people could not help but talk about him.

Jesus brings us living water - gushing into the parched lands of our lives. Whatever it is that holds us back from him - lack of insight, inability to hear, uncertainty about leaping into action - he can heal us. If we ask, he will speak that small simple word into our ears, "Ephphatha" and we will be enabled to "be opened" to his word, to his love, to his life.

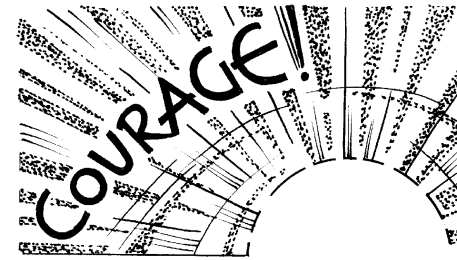
But then we have to act - like the crowd we cannot keep this to ourselves. We can "publish" the Good News by our words, by our actions. St James gives us a starting point: thinking about the way we treat others.

## 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.*

Lord our God  
In you justice and mercy meet.  
With unparalleled love you have  
saved us from death and drawn us  
into the circle of your life.  
Open our eyes to see the wonders  
that life sets before us, that we  
may serve you free from fear and  
address you as God our Father.



*Opening prayer for 23rd Sunday of the Year*

5th & 6th September 2009			
Mass	Readers	Ministers of the Eucharist	Offertory
Sat 7.00pm	M. Dahl	M. Gallagher	Cullen family
8.00 am	M. Mulkerrins C. Mort	N. Dyckhoff	J. Keeney
9.30 am	K. Rainsford F. Marks	M. Carroll	Attard-Montalto family
11.00 am	A. Johnson M. Hitchens	I. Douglas, E. Madrazo, N. Dyckhoff	Maestas family
6.30 pm	K. Ambrose	M. Cooper	Murray family
<b>Cleaning Team:</b> Team B. Tuesday 8th September			
<b>Sunday Coffee:</b> David & Ruth Next week: Catherine			
Next week we celebrate the Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year			