



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531
www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Middleton, 020 8429 5684, shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Catechist: Kay O'Connor, 020 8429 5682, kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh, 020 8429 5681, claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk (9.30am-1.30pm, Mon-Wed-Fri)

6th January 2013 ~ Epiphany of the Lord

We Welcome...

People of All Faiths and Cultures
Divorced or Separated Persons
Families with Children
Those in Loving Relationships
Those in Difficulty
Married Couples
Single Persons
Those in Recovery
Travellers from Far and Near
Widows and Widowers
Visitors

We Seek...

To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
To Gather the Community and Tell the Story
To Sing and Make Music to the Lord
To Break the Bread and Share the Cup

We Celebrate...

Diversity
A spirit of hospitality
The unity that God wills
Enlightening those who seek God
Forming small faith communities
Reaching out to alienated Catholics
Reverencing the dignity of each person
Caring for the needs of the less fortunate
Empowering Christians to realise their call
Providing a spiritual Oasis
Honouring an understanding among all faiths
Nurturing our gifts and sharing them

The recent census showed a sharp rise in the number of people in England and Wales who do not belong to any religious faith. Yet there is still a hunger for meaning, even among those who reject the existence of God. Some people try to find it in their relationships, others look to art and music, to poetry and films, to give some glimpse of why we are here and for what we exist. Many people still find the meaning of our lives in the sacred scriptures of their faith.

What does this story of the magi have to say to about our search? Finally they arrive at Bethlehem and offer Jesus their homage, but they need all sorts of help to get there. First of all there is their own wisdom and expertise, the astronomical knowledge that sets them off on the journey and points them in the right direction. But that was not enough. It got them only as far as Jerusalem. Then they needed the help of King Herod, who told them to go to Bethlehem. He, in turn, needed the expertise of the chief priests and the scribes, who had studied the scriptures and so knew where the Messiah was to be born.

None of these would have been enough by itself. Without their own wisdom, they would never have set off to look for 'the newborn king'; without the knowledge of the religious authorities, they would not have known where to find him. Even Herod had his part to play.

So it is with us in our own search for the meaning of our lives. First of all we Christians have the wisdom of our Scriptures, the Word of God. It is to this Word, who is ultimately the person of Jesus, that we owe our primary obedience. Here we hear the summons to take to the road. But if we just rely on our own interpretation of the Bible, then we may easily misunderstand what it says. So we listen to the scriptures as members of the Church, a community which stretches across two thousand years. We listen to the wise and holy men and women who have wrestled with the Word, and learn from them. We also listen to the Church's teachers, the Magisterium.

But, there is also another tradition to which we must be equally respectful – the tradition of the human heart: which speaks through novels, art, music, tragedy. Here it is possible to find and adore God in the complexity of human experience. This is God's gift to us - let us use it well.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 5th January (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 6th – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

08.30 Annette & Danny Fadian (Anniv)

10.00 Austin & Kathleen Lynch (Anniv), Kitty & PJ Davis (Anniv)

11.30 In Thanksgiving – Michael & Deirdre Deely (50th Wedding Anniversary)

Monday 7th – Christmas feria

09.30 Kevin Cosgrove RIP

Tuesday 8th – Christmas feria

09.30 Mary Bridget O'Reilly (Anniv)

11.15 Funeral of Raneë Emmanuel RIP

Wednesday 9th – Christmas feria

19.00 Ladislaus Albert RIP

Thursday 10th – Christmas feria

09.30 John Casey RIP

Friday 11th – Christmas feria

09.30 Bill Kennedy (Anniv)

12.00 Funeral of Bridget Devlin RIP

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 17.15-17.45

Please keep the sick in your prayers. A list of sick parishioners is displayed on the notice board at the back of the Church.

Recently Deceased, (baby) Charles Pollock, Wyn Bowker, Raneë Emmanuel, Frances Greenfield, Luke Lambe, Bridget Devlin.

Pray Also For, Annette & Danny Fadian, Austin & Kathleen Lynch, Kitty & PJ Davis, Mary Bridget O'Reilly, Bill Kennedy, Michael Gahan, Charles Baldwin, Paul Harot, Veronica Joiner, Elsie Ball, Jeanne Le Forestier, William English, John Thrower, Hannah O'Leary, John & Mary Grogan, Frances Rowlands, June Haskell, James Fogarty, Gladys Bennett, Anna Chenley, James Murray, Marie Bayross, Elsie Yim, Nora Duffy, Myra Mahendra, Susan Gibbs, John Murphy, Millicent Mabin, Ratnadurai Thayaparan and Allen Morgan whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Raneë Emmanuel who has died. Her funeral will take place at St John Fisher Church on Tuesday, 8th January at 11.15am followed by burial at Carpenders Park Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

Please Remember Bridget Devlin who has died. Her funeral will take place at St John Fisher Church on Friday, 11th January at 12 Noon followed by burial at Carpenders Park Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

Please Remember Wyn Bowker who has died. Her body will be received at St. John Fisher Church on Monday, 14th January at 7pm. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday, 15th January at 11.30am followed by burial at Pinner New Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

Baptisms We welcome Tiernan Bowen and Jaden Godson who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Fr. Shaun Would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and overwhelming generosity at Christmas. Many thanks to all who enabled the liturgies to take place with grace and dignity.

Barry Woodall For many years Barry has been our parish MC. However, because of commitments at work Barry has had to step down from this role, though he will be with us on major occasions. It is hoped that our Senior Servers can assist Fr. Shaun in providing good serving and looking after the younger servers during the

week. We will announce plans for the training of new servers in the near future.

Faith Sharing Many thanks to all who have asked to participate in faith sharing groups. You will be contacted shortly by Tony McWilliams, the faith group co-ordinator.

Car Parking The need is great and the space is small. Please be careful when you are parking. Over the Christmas period there were a number of times when people found themselves blocked in.

Saturday Classes Re-start on 12th January 2013.

Children's Liturgy Re-starts on 13th January 2013.

Wyn Bowker RIP With sadness I have learnt of the death of Wyn Bowker. She was one of the founder members of St John Fisher's Amateur Dramatic Group – **Imperials Players**. In 1963 the then Priest Father McKenna asked the Mothers Union to start an amateur dramatic group that could use the stage in the Church Hall. Soon after the group was open to the men folk of the Church and then for the following 49 years we regularly produced three plays a year until disbanded this year. Wyn was always involved in the productions, either acting, front of stage or in the background. There are many parishioners who knew Wyn, who regularly attended our church before she became housebound. We all send her family our deepest condolences. *Helen Sherwood*

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Next meeting on Wednesday, 16th January. The meeting on 6th February will be a talk by Fr. Anthony Pellegrini with a bit of a social so can everyone please bring a little plate of something.

St John Fisher Social Club Membership subscriptions are now due and can be renewed during club opening hours. Please note our AGM is on Sunday, 3rd February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

St. John Fisher Church Theatre Group Please see notice in the porch for latest information on future Theatre events and transport details.

Association of Separated and Divorced Catholics (ASDC) Next meeting on Monday, 7th January at 8pm in St Bernard's Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. For info contact Jill 8204 3714.

Alliance of Pro-Life Students London Launch, Wednesday 16th January 2013, 7.30pm at the Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch Are you a sixth form student, at university or in post-graduate studies? This is a new youth-led initiative dedicated to bringing the message of life to university campuses and colleges across Great Britain. Join us for drinks and nibbles. Entry by ticket only, visit www.allianceofprolifestudents.org.uk or call Eve Farrer on 07568 355677.

Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes with Anointing of the Sick in Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 9th February 2013 at 2pm If you or the person you are accompanying will be attending in a wheelchair please contact Claudia on 8429 5681/ claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk by 20th January 2013.

Pilgrims Progress The January edition is available in the Church porch.

Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) Crib Appeal 2012 If you would still like to donate gift vouchers from supermarkets, etc. you can do so until 13th January. Please drop them off at the presbytery. Many thanks for your support.