



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)

1st December 2013 ~ First Sunday of Advent Year A

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

Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* – the Joy of the Gospel. It challenges Catholics to reject a life of comfort and move into direct contact with the poor as a matter of great urgency. It tells them that the Church has become lazy, even without realising it. It says that traditional styles of worship are not necessarily suitable for newly evangelised non-Western people, or the modern world in general.

Pope Francis says, "*Here I repeat for the entire Church what I have often said to the priests and laity of Buenos Aires: I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mk 6:37).*"

As we approach the great season of Advent, which will lead us to the joy of Christmas, we should reflect upon the ways that we have become trapped by those things which do not allow the joy of the gospel to enter our minds and hearts. We should take the opportunity of Advent to welcome the Lord into the poverty of our lives and we should remember that through him the bruises, hurts and difficulties of our lives can be transformed so that we can live with the dignity and grace which he wishes to bestow upon us.

Fr. Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 30th November (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 John Glavin (Anniv)
Sunday 1st December – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT
08.30 Terry Rough (Anniv)
10.00 Neil Everett (For full recovery from Op)
11.30 People of the Parish
Monday 2nd – Advent Feria
09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP
Tuesday 3rd – St Francis Xavier, Priest
09.30 In Thanksgiving – Russell Arulanantham
Wednesday 4th – Advent Feria
19.00 Sister Teresa Geohegan (Sick)
Thursday 5th – Advent Feria
09.30 Rose & Ted Harrington RIP
Friday 6th – Advent Feria
09.00 Herbert Hoffmann RIP
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 17.15-17.45

Mass Time on Friday, 6th December – Due to a Schools Carol Concert being held at St. John Fisher Church at 10.30am, Mass will be celebrated at **9.00am**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be on Friday, 13th December.

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, Sarah Cook, Maria Grazia Sangineto.

Pray Also For, John Glavin, Terry Rough, Ian Welham, Catherine Barker, John Barnes, Barbara Buczek, Beryl Everitt, Mary Rodrigues and Rita Loughlin whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Rosie-Maree Dier, William Mitchell, Éabha-Mae Porter and Charlie Preece who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Advent Penitential Service at St. John Fisher On Thursday, 12th December at 7.30pm.

Confirmation All candidates should have received their letter from Kay. If you haven't received your letter please contact Kay immediately.

Google Groups We are setting up an electronic email which will contain the Parish Newsletter. This will be sent to all who are registered and who have given us an email address. If you wish to opt out, please let us know and remember to make sure to release it from the spam report if it should end up there.

CAFOD Christmas Card Stall Open this weekend after all masses and every weekend until 22nd December. Traidcraft food will be sold after all masses on 14th/15th December.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Christmas Dinner On 4th December after 7pm Mass. £10, bring your own drink. Members, please ring Teresa 020 8427 3063 if you would like to come.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 5th December 2013 at 8pm in the sacristy room.

Celebrate Advent with Friends for Friends Help us decorate the 1:1 Club Christmas Tree, hear the Christmas story, sing your favourite carols on Sunday, 8th December at 2-5pm in the Parish Hall. The afternoon will close with light refreshments. Just send us a quick email to info@friendsforfriends.org.uk.

Parish Women's Group Our next meeting will be a party games evening in the small hall on Thursday, 12th December immediately after the Advent Penitential Service. Cost £1. For further information contact Elena on 020 8427 3918.

Coffee Morning Christmas Hamper We wish to raffle a Christmas Hamper on 15th December and are asking for a few donations of seasonal 'goodies' to place in the basket. Please drop them off at the presbytery. Any goods that are not used will be passed onto the Foodbank. Raffle tickets for the hamper will be sold after all masses on 7th and 8th December and at the coffee morning. Many thanks for your support.

St. John Fisher Recipe Book One of our parishioners has come up with a marvellous idea. It is proposed that we create a St John Fisher recipe book. The idea is that people give us their recipes and write a paragraph or two about where the recipe came from. This might be something about the person who gave you the recipe or it could be a cultural reference such as food that is cooked to celebrate a particular event in your home country. You might submit a recipe as an individual or as a family. As we have parishioners from all around the world this could be an exciting project so please send your recipes in and include cooking times, cooking temperature and the method of how to make the dish. We already have someone who has volunteered to do the illustrations for the book, so now we would like help especially in the production of the book. If you have experience in using *Microsoft Publisher* or another publishing programme please let Fr. Shaun or Kay know. We would have the book professionally printed and then sell it in order to raise funds for the re-ordering. If all goes well we would like to have the book ready by the time of next year's International Day. In the meantime, please send your recipes to harrownorth@rcdow.org.uk.

Churches Together in North Harrow The Christmas greetings cards are now available for distribution. If you have offered to help, please collect your pack from the Church Porch where they are arranged in alphabetical order of the distributors' surnames.

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

St. John Fisher Catholic Diaries 2014 Now available in the Church porch. Suggested donation £1. Please put money in 'Papers' box.

Westminster Year Book 2014 If you would like a copy at £4.50 each please come to the sacristy either before or after Mass.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party Saturday, 14th December 2013 at 7pm for 7.30pm. All replies to be returned by **Sunday, 8th December 2013**.

NAME..... TEL NO.....

ADDRESS.....

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Please state clearly if you require transport.

TRANSPORT REQUIRED YES/NO