



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531

[www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk](http://www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Middleton, 020 8429 5684, [shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Catechist: Kay O'Connor, 020 8429 5682, [kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk)

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

## 8<sup>th</sup> December 2013 ~ Second Sunday of Advent Year A

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### *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

In today's first reading the prophet Isaiah paints a picture of what the reign of the future descendant of David, Son of Jesse, will look like. Isaiah foresees a time when peace and concord would be established throughout the whole of creation. There would be the restoration of a lost serenity and innocence so that in their relations with one another God's creatures 'do no hurt, no harm'. As part of this vision Isaiah discloses that the coming king will be a rallying point for all the nations. Under his rule all peoples - both Jews and Gentiles - would be brought into friendship with God and with one another.

The writers of the New Testament would see this future kingdom prophesied by Isaiah being brought to fulfilment in Jesus Christ. At the time of the Annunciation the angel reveals to Mary that she will give birth to a son, and says of this son that 'the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end' (Luke 1:32-33). And when the child Jesus is presented in the Temple, Simeon declares him to be 'a light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to thy people Israel' (Luke 2:32).

Sustaining the right relationship with God and with one another - those things which embody this new kingdom - makes demands upon each one of us. This is John the Baptist's point to some of the Jewish leaders who came to him for baptism in the river Jordan. He tells them that they cannot claim security simply by calling themselves children of Abraham and thus assuming that the promises made to Abraham would be applied to them. Placing their confidence in their ancestry was not enough to maintain a right relationship with God. Rather, John the Baptist tells them, if they don't measure up to their calling then God will simply raise up new children of Abraham.

At the heart of John's message is the call to repentance. Participation in the kingdom of God requires a change of heart. And this means living in a new and challenging way. At our baptism we received the Holy Spirit and her sevenfold gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. If we are attentive to the guidance of the Spirit which is given to us then our thoughts and actions will come closer to those of Christ and we shall be able to share in his mission of gathering together all peoples in obedience to the one God, building the Kingdom and bringing hope to a fallen world.

*Fr. Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Rita Loughlin (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv)

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 Virginia & John Dellamura RIP

10.00 Luke Lambe (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED**

**VIRGIN MARY, Patron of the Diocese**

09.30 Marie Gunawardena RIP

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Advent Feria

09.30 Gottfried Pillai RIP

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Advent Feria

19.00 Eugenia & Jozef Sulikowski & Family RIP

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Advent Feria

09.30 Michael Gallagher (Int)

**19.30 Advent Penitential Service**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

09.30 Kåre Bjørnerud (Anniv) & David Rimmer (Anniv)

**10.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

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**, Sean Jennings, Brian Sharkey, Nelson Mandela, Dennis McMullen, Carmel Harrington.

**Pray Also For**, Rita Loughlin, Luke Lambe, Kåre Bjørnerud, David Rimmer, Patrick Bowles, Winifred Scally, Barbara Handler, Paddy Ryan, Anthony Buhagiari, Edmund St. Clare-Burke, Henryk Kosminski, Cynthia Smith, Mario Perdoni, Kathleen McDonnell, Anthony Mills, Stanislaus Bannis, Theresa Fallon and Josie Tobin whose anniversaries occur at this time.



## Christmas Mass Times

*Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December*

5.00pm Family Mass

10.30pm Lessons and Carols followed by Mass

*Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December*

08.30am Mass

10.00am Children's Mass

11.30am Mass

*St Stephen's Day 26<sup>th</sup> December*

11.00am Mass

For the rest of Christmas the Mass schedule will take place at the usual times except on

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm (*no Morning Mass*) and

Wednesday, 1st January 2014 at 11.00am (*no Evening Mass*).

**David Else RIP** Mary Else and Family would like to thank all family, relations, friends and parishioners who supported them during the sad loss of their much loved David. May he rest in Peace. A Mass will be offered for your intentions. May God bless you all.



**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.

**'The Pylon'** The Christmas Edition of our exciting Parish magazine is now available at the back of the church. Price £1 (please put money in 'Papers' box). Please buy a copy and support our advertisers who are all parishioners.

**'Lights of Life' Christmas Tree** Those parishioners who wish to fill in a card can do so from this weekend and put the card into the box provided (near St. Anthony statue). Your card will be put on the tree from next weekend. A memory book is also available for you to write the names of those you wish to remember.

**Christmas Flower Collection** There will be a retiring collection after Masses this weekend towards the cost of the Christmas flowers in our Church.

**CAFOD Christmas Card Stall** Open this weekend after all masses and every weekend until 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Traidcraft food and cards will be sold after all masses next weekend.

**Parish Women's Group** Our next meeting will be a party games evening in the small hall on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 at our next coffee morning on 15<sup>th</sup> December and are asking for a few donations of seasonal 'goodies' to place in the basket. Please drop them off at the presbytery by Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December. Any goods that are not used will be passed onto the Foodbank. Raffle tickets for the hamper will be sold after all masses this weekend and at the coffee morning. Many thanks for your support.

**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.

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

**Corpus Christi young adult Prayer group** A Contemplative Prayer Group for young, adults in their 20s and 30s meets at Corpus Christi on Maiden Lane, Covent Garden every Wednesday from 7pm for a time of Eucharistic Adoration, Contemplative Prayer and Personal Intercession. Regular events include the celebration of Mass and a Eucharistic healing service both monthly. We gather for a time of fellowship at the Coal Hole on the Strand afterwards. For further details please contact: [corpuschristipg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:corpuschristipg@yahoo.co.uk).

**Westminster of Diocese Vacancy – Parish Administrator, St. Gabriel's, South Harrow** A Parish Administrator is required to provide support to the parish team at St. Gabriel's. **Salary:** £10-12 per hour (neg); **Hours:** 22.5 hours per week (9.30am-2pm, Mon-Fri); **Closing date:** 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013, **Interview date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2014. Please see noticeboard for more info or visit [www.rcdow.org.uk/jobs](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/jobs).