



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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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)

5th January 2014 ~ 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 Magi came from the land where the sun rises; they had to turn their back on the light in order to come to the true light who is Christ. More than that, they had to travel by night following the flickering light of a star. Darkness makes everything the same, it is impossible to see details, to know where you are, to see where you are going. These wise men have to learn a new wisdom. They are amongst the first disciples in the New Testament.



The Magi had made a journey in the dark for about three years. It had been an arduous journey. Herod and all Jerusalem were infinitely more privileged than these gentile strangers because he knew in a few minutes what it had taken the wise men from the east so long to discover. He simply summoned his court theologians and asked 'Where is the Messiah to be born?' They took out their scrolls, juggled their texts and came up with the answer in a few minutes: Bethlehem of Judah. Herod knew, he had access to a higher wisdom; the Magi followed the star, Herod knew God's word itself, but he never heard it. He did not make the journey. The centre of his life was his throne, his power, his possession of God's house. He could not abandon that centre, that is why he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him. They could not imagine that the world had a new centre; the centre of the world was now the cradle of an infant.

Leaving Jerusalem the Magi found and followed their star and it led them to where the child was. Their reaction was different from Herod's: he was troubled, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. They then entered the house; Matthew chooses his words well. This is the house of God, not the temple in Jerusalem, but this house sheltering the cradle of the king who will shepherd his people, there they offered their gifts. In telling the story of Christ's birth Matthew says that there are three invitations to worship the infant king, to the shepherds and then to the wise men who make a journey, they make the journey from the periphery to the centre. There is a third invitation to Herod and all Jerusalem, but Herod and all Jerusalem do not make the journey. In the Incarnation the world is turned inside out, the periphery becomes the centre. I hope that as we journey through 2014, each of us will be able to make that same journey and draw closer to Christ. Happy New Year to you all.

Shaun Middleton

Fr Shaun Middleton

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 4th January (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Mary Horan RIP
Sunday 5th – **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
08.30 Elena & Mamea (Anniv)
10.00 People of the Parish
11.30 Michael Arulanantham (Anniv)
Monday 6th – Christmas feria
09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP
Tuesday 7th – Christmas feria
09.30 Luke & Angela Filan (Anniv) and Eileen Power (Anniv)
Wednesday 8th – Christmas feria
19.00 Frank Donagy RIP
Thursday 9th – Christmas feria
09.30 Friends & Family (In Thanksgiving – Mary Else)
Friday 10th – Christmas feria
09.30 Sean Jennings 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, Cora Perdoni, Noel Jayasingam, Billy Tubritt, Johnna Pedersen.

Pray Also For, Elena & Mamea, Michael Arulanantham, Luke & Angela Filan, Eileen Power, Dorothy Tucker, Michael Gahan, Charles Baldwin, Paul Harot, Veronica Joiner, Elsie Ball, Jeanne Le Forestier, William English, Joan Thrower, Hannah O'Leary, John & Mary Grogan, Frances Rowlands, June Haskell, James Fogarty and Gladys Bennett whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Kalvine Johnson and Liam Markinson who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Weekday Masses Please note that Mass will take place in the small hall from Monday, 6th January 2014 until further notice. Please assist the Sacristans with setting up, clearing up, etc. as much as you can.

Church Cleaning Will take place on Saturday mornings.

Funerals Will take place at 9.30am because of the building works.

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.

Saturday Classes Re-start on 11th January 2014.

Children's Liturgy Re-starts on 12th January 2014.

Car Parking Arrangements whilst building works are in progress

The Car Park will be closed from **6th January 2014** to facilitate major building works to the Church. On Sundays, Saturdays and on special occasions every endeavour will be made to open the Car Park for genuine visitors to the Church, but the area available for car parking will be reduced on grounds of safety. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the closure of the car park.

Wood Do you have an open fire? We have just emptied a shed that contained quite a lot of wood from the sets the old Drama group used to have. If you would like it before it goes to the skip then please help yourself. It is to be found behind the parish centre. Just follow the path around the small hall and keep going

until you can go no further. You may need to bring a saw with you.

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.

Stamps for St. Luke's Hospice Please remember to keep all your used stamps and place them in either Barbara Towell's or Tess Constantine's pigeonhole. The hospice depends on all of our support and this is a small way each of us is able to help. They made £10,000 on used stamps last year. If you have any large collections you wish to donate, please bring them to the Parish Office. Many thanks.

St John Fisher Social Club Membership subscriptions are now due and can be renewed during club opening hours or after Mass in the Church porch on 18th and 19th January. Please note our AGM is on Sunday, 9th February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 20th – 25th January 2014 Services will be held each day at the local churches at Noon followed by simple refreshments. On Monday, 20th January, St. John Fisher's Service will be held in Elmfield Church because of the building work. All will be welcome at our service from 12pm to 12.30pm.

Association of Separated and Divorced Catholics (ASDC) Next meeting of the Harrow ASDC Group will be on Monday, 6th January at 8pm in St Bernard's Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics, whatever their situation, are welcome. For further info please contact Jill 8204 3714 or Eileen 8756 1284.

Getting Married Please remember that it is a requirement of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales that at least six months notice be given if you intend to get married. We need this time to process the paperwork and to ensure that you can have access to Marriage Preparation.

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

Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) Crib Appeal 2013 With your support CCS is helping more children & families than ever before to break free from the poverty trap. If you would like to donate please visit www.cathchild.org.uk or text CCSW12 (plus the amount) £2/£5/£10 to 70070. Many thanks for your support.

Last Call If anyone else is interested in coming on the Parish Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Palazzola from 16th – 23rd May 2014, please let Fr Shaun know.

New to the Parish? Please make yourself known after Mass to either Fr Shaun or Kay O'Connor so you may be registered and be provided with all the relevant information.

Restoration As you know, the works to re-order the sanctuary are about to start. Thank you for your patience and understanding during what will be an inevitable time of disruption.