



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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

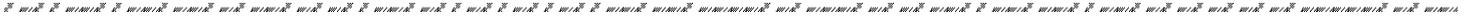
www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

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)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014 ~ The Presentation 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

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the end of our Christmas liturgies, in which the Gospel of Luke describes how the parents of Jesus bring Him to be presented in the temple. We are told that they are following the Jewish practice according to which 'every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord' (Luke 2:23). This act of presentation happens at the beginning of life because at this point the child is an open book to be filled with God's law, to be dedicated to God. The child's life now belongs to the Lord. At first sight this would seem to be the ultimate denial of the child's freedom, the closing off of the possibility for the child to decide for himself how he wishes to live his life. Yet the reality is that this is the ultimate act of freeing. The child's life is not to be measured according to success or failure in achieving a set of human goals, but in faithfulness to God's life giving promises. We are freed from the burden of self-fulfilment for God Himself becomes our fulfilment.



But what of those who are not faithful? Those who refuse the gift of God? To Simeon it had been revealed by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Christ of the Lord. Anna had spent most of her life praying in the temple. These two venerable prophets proclaim that the child being presented in the temple is God's salvation, the Christ who will free Israel and be a light to the pagans. Here is more than optimism, for this is a real hope. Through this child God will restore us to the faithful friendship we have lost by sinning. More than that, He will offer us adoption as His sons and daughters, to share fully in His joy.

Our past can burden us; mistakes made, hurts suffered. But the past (and for that matter the future) can only truly burden us if we judge our lives by human standards. The hope offered us in Jesus Christ transforms us, so that no matter how life has been hope is not lost, a hope which rests not upon our own efforts, but upon the loving friendship revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

*Fr Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Wanda Owczarczak RIP

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

08.30 Allen Morgan (Anniv)

10.00 Mr & Mrs. Gerard Nicholas (Int)

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sts Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore,  
Archbishops of Canterbury

09.30 Billy Tubritt RIP

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> – Feria, Fourth Week of Year 2

09.30 Mary Connolly (Int)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> – St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

19.00 Mary Murray RIP

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

09.30 Brendan Connolly (Int)

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – Feria

09.30 Deva Rajakarier (Anniv)

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**, David Hooper, Veronica Bragg, Joseph Bayross, Maurice Malone.

**Pray Also For** Allen Morgan, Deva Rajakarier, Doris Jones, Daniel Lynch, Catherine Dias, Marguerite Rogers, Mabel Morgan, Jack Hurst, Stan Phillips, Guy Verrier, Emily Jukes, David Lavelle, Martina Mulvaney, Peter Sullivan, Daisy Rowland and Robert O'Beirne whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**The Parish Project** You can keep up to date with what is happening by following us on Twitter @SJFHarrow where you will find a photographic diary.

**Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)** The next meeting is on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February after 7pm Mass. We have a physiotherapist Tony Gillespie who will show us some exercises.

**Knights of St. Columba** Next meeting on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 8pm in the Social Club.

**St John Fisher Social Club AGM** On Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

**Mary's Meals** "Rags to riches" collection will take place the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> February, so please collect together unwanted clothing, towels, sheets, belts, handbags, shoes, curtains (the condition does not matter) to bring to the church that weekend. Please do not bring before then and only textiles.

**Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP)** Are distributing 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. They would be very grateful if you could sponsor packs at a suggested donation of £3 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or go to [virginmoneygiving.com](http://virginmoneygiving.com) and type "Vinnie Packs" into the sponsor a friend box. If you have a query, please email [VinniePacks@hotmail.com](mailto:VinniePacks@hotmail.com). Thank you so much for your support.

**Westminster Cathedral Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes** Will take place at 2pm on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> February. Archbishop Vincent Nichols will preside and the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome, no seat reservations or

tickets. If you are bringing a wheelchair, please tell your parish priest so that he can reserve space for wheelchairs and carers.

**Archbishop's Mass for Altar Servers – Change of Date** The annual Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Elect, Archbishop Vincent Nichols in Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 2.30pm**. For further details please see flyer on notice board in the Church porch.

**Archbishop's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 3pm** The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2014. If you qualify, please contact Claudia on [claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk) or 8429 5681 by **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February** with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or telephone number if no e-mail).

**Association of Separated and Divorced Catholics (ASDC)** The next meeting of the Harrow ASDC Group will be on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 8pm in St Bernard's Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics, whatever their situation, are welcome. For further information please contact Jill 8204 3714 or Eileen 8756 1284.

**St. William of York. R.C. Church, Stanmore – Quiz Night** On Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 at 6.45pm, Adults £8, Children (under 12 years) £5, fish & chips supper included, bring your own drinks. For more info please see poster in Church porch.

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes – 13-17 May 2014** £500 incl. insurance, transport to airport, full board at Agena Hotel, and trips to Bartres and San Pierre. Details from: John O'Sullivan at 020 8459 0279.



*Would you please consider buying a brick or two in order to support re-furbishing the Sanctuary? Bricks Cost £10 each and we will issue a Certificate of Thanks for every brick that you buy. Please fill out the form below and return it to Fr Shaun at the presbytery. Cheques should be made payable to St John Fisher Church.*

### PLEASE PRINT

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Number of bricks @ £10 each.....

Total Amount £.....

Name of Person you wish to appear on the certificate

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