



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)

30th November 2014 ~ First Sunday of Advent Year B



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

Have you ever felt like giving God a good shake to wake Him up? If so, you're in good company. Impatiently, the Psalmist, speaking for his people, exclaimed, "Arouse Yourself, why do you sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not reject us forever. Why do you hide your face and forget our affliction and our oppression?" (Ps.44. 23-24). He was desperate. Where was God when he most needed Him? Where is He when we most need Him? Has He forgotten us? Does He no longer care for us? Or is He just asleep and needs waking up?



These are the anxieties and doubts, which the prophet Isaiah expressed in today's 1st Reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent. There he cries, 'Tear open the heavens and come down!' (Is.64. 1). The prophet expressed the frustrations and longings of God's people. They'd returned joyfully from exile in Babylon. But they'd found their land devastated, Jerusalem in ruins, its temple destroyed. They'd become depressed by the arduous task of re-building their lives. Now the God who had rescued them seemed so distant. Against this background the prophet begged God to tear open the heavens and come down to help them.

Deep within God's people the Lord had planted the conviction that He would always come to their rescue. His prophets had foretold the coming of the Lord's anointed – a Messiah – who would establish His sovereignty over the whole of creation. They foresaw a time when He would banish evil, a day when God's love, justice and peace would reign.

God has responded magnificently to our needs and to our longings. He has torn the heavens open and come to save us. His Son, the Word of God, has become flesh and dwelt among us. He has shared our human life, so that we could share His divine life and happiness. God could not have paid the human race a greater compliment than by joining it!

The heavens were torn open and God came to our rescue most decisively at the moment of Christ's death. This was dramatically symbolised when the veil of the Temple was split from top to bottom. That divided the Temple into God's dwelling place in the Holy of Holies, and man's domain. Only on the Day of Atonement could the High Priest enter the Holy of Holies. But with His death Jesus tore asunder the barrier separating man from God. Through the blood of the cross He has atoned for our sins; He has made our peace with God. Through Jesus God has torn open the heavens. One of us, Jesus, now dwells as High Priest in the Holy of Holies. Through Him we now have free access to God.

Advent is a special time for us to reflect on our need for God to come to save us from the power of sin. This holy season brings with it the special graces for us to enter into the wonder of Christmas - the wonder of the Son of God becoming a human baby, while remaining truly God. At that moment the Son of God became forever a member of the human race, forever committed to us. Nothing can destroy God's love for us.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 29th November (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Eddie Fitzgerald RIP
Sunday 30th November – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT
08.30 John Glavin (Anniv)
10.00 Mrs Maria L. DeSouza RIP
11.30 People of the Parish
Monday 1st December – Advent feria
09.30 Terry Rough (Anniv)
Tuesday 2nd – Advent feria
09.30 Anton Regis RIP
Wednesday 3rd – St Francis Xavier, Priest
19.00 Sally Benjamin
Thursday 4th – Advent feria
09.30 Intention of Donor
Friday 5th – Advent feria
09.30 Joseph & Susan Vedanayagam 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, Philomena Rajaratnam.

Pray Also For, John Glavin, Terry Rough, Jack Drury, Frank Carr, Christopher White, Ian Welham, Catherine Barker, Betty Williams, John Barnes, Barbara Buczek, Beryl Everitt and Agnes Addy whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Grace Rossington who has died. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday, 2nd December at 3pm at Breakspear Crematorium. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

Advent Penitential Service at St. John Fisher On Monday, 15th December at 7.30pm.

Altar Servers Next week 6th/7th Dec Team B will serve. If you cannot serve please get a replacement.

Hymn Board Please note, when the prefix 'P' is used before a hymn number this refers to the page number in the Mass Common Booklet.

Young Adult Group – First Meeting On Sunday, 7th December after the 11.30am Mass in The Fisher Room.

'The Pylon' The Christmas Edition of our exciting Parish magazine is available at the back of the church from this weekend. Please buy a copy - £1 (please put money in 'Papers' box). There are many articles written by members of the Parish which will be of great interest. We have tried out a new format this time which we hope you like, but if you wish to have a copy in A4 format (unfortunately only in black and white) then contact Geraldine Kennedy by email geraldine2906@gmail.com or call 8428 3547.

Parish 100 Club The major structural work to the church has been completed and we hope that you like it. Over the next seven years, we will need to pay the diocese back the loan that it has given to our parish to make this work possible. One fund raising initiative is for parishioners to join the Parish 100 Club. We would ask parishioners to buy a monthly ticket which costs £5; if 100 people join and pay £5 a month, the amount raised each month is £500... and £250 is given away in prizes as follows: £100 £75 £50 £25. This leaves £250 which goes to the parish. If 200 people join, the prizes go up to £200, £150, £100 and £50. So the more people join, the greater the monthly prize money will be. It would

be fantastic if we could have a parish 200 club so we could raise £6000 a year which would be enormously helpful. **A Registration form is available from the porch or our website.** Thank you for your support.

CAFOD Christmas Cards On sale in the porch this weekend.

SJF Ladies Club (formerly Union of Catholic Mothers) Next meeting on 3rd December at 7.30pm. Can everyone coming please bring a little food. Mulled wine will be provided. The meetings are open to anyone and we would welcome new ideas and projects.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 4th December 2014 at 8pm in the Social Club.

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, 7th 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.

Cantemus Directed by Jean Coward, will sing Christmas Music, including some carols for audience, on Saturday, 13th December at 3pm at St. John Fisher Church. Admission free.

St John Fisher Social Club Quiz Night On Saturday, 13th December @ 8pm in the parish hall. Entrance is £3 per person. Teas & coffees will be available & if you are a bit peckish we will also have freshly made ploughman's 'suppers' for sale. All proceeds to parish funds. To book a team, please email durcanjohn@aol.com.

Churches Together in North Harrow The Christmas greetings cards are now available for distribution. Packs are in alphabetical order by the distributor's surname. Surplus cards can be left in the box by the small side window. If you need more cards please help yourself.

Greetings card campaign This weekend and next you can take part in a campaign to send a greetings card to a prisoner of conscience or an organisation overseas working for human rights. These messages of support give a great boost to those receiving them. Find out more from the stall in the porch, collect an address to add to your Christmas card list or add your message to a card which will be posted for you (suggested voluntary donation £1).

SVP Vinnie Packs Please sponsor a pack containing cold weather essentials for the homeless at a suggested donation of £3 per pack. Donations to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or go to virginmoneygiving.com and type "Vinnie Packs" into the sponsor a friend box. If you have a query, please email VinniePacks@hotmail.com.

Westminster Year Book 2015 If you would like a copy at £4.50 each please collect one from the foyer of the sacristy either before or after Mass.

Pilgrims Progress The December edition is in the Church porch.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party Saturday, 6th December 2014 at 7pm for 7.30pm. All replies to be returned by **Sunday, 30th November 2014.**

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

ADDRESS.....

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Please state clearly if you require transport. YES/NO