



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)

7th December 2014 ~ Second 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

For the people of Israel the wilderness was a good but frightening place: it was where they had first met God, but in order to meet him they had to do without a lot of the creature comforts which we think go with normal living. The prophets saw the wilderness as the place which the disobedient nation would have to go back to, for something which was a cross between a punishment and a honeymoon with God, their uncomfortable lover. So John the Baptist in the wilderness reminded the people of Judaea and Jerusalem that they had strayed from God and they must take steps to seek God. He didn't go into their towns and cafes and schools; he didn't go into the places where the powerful met and made decisions; he didn't try to make himself popular or speak to the media. He just spoke, saying people should repent. The Gospel writer doesn't tell us how people got to hear about him out there by the Jordan, but they flocked to hear him.



The people who went to hear him wanted a change; they may have wanted all kinds of changes – in the way they were governed, in their financial circumstances, in their health: but they were willing to see themselves as the ones who had to change first. John had touched a chord in people's hearts: they were hungry for something, and they sensed that in order to get whatever it was, they themselves needed to change, to accept responsibility for what was wrong with their world. Jesus too would attract a lot of people who knew something was wrong; and like John, only in a more encouraging way, he would give them hope that things could change, and indeed were changing. In our day people are hungry for God, without necessarily knowing it. They need to meet wilderness people – people who don't seek popularity, people who live a life of trust in God, people who put love for God and for human beings above consumerism and competition. And like Jesus who was tempted in the wilderness but met people in their towns and cafes and schools, you can find wilderness people in all sorts of ordinary places, not only the dramatic desert near the Jordan.

And those wilderness people – you and me, I hope: oh dear..... well, who else has God got to do his work if it isn't those who say they believe in him? – we wilderness people, meeting people in towns and cafes and schools and other ordinary places, don't get people to believe in us: we point away to the one who is greater than us, who is God's gift to the human race; we point to Jesus Christ. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit, said John. That is, he will make you new people, children of God, inhabitants of the new world which is coming to us as God's gift. It's not a world we can construct by massively funded renewal programmes, though belonging to it will make us better citizens and will give us better political vision, and more commitment to humanly-shaped economics. But the special gift we will give to the world when we tell the good news about Jesus is the gift of hope; and that's the most practical virtue of all.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 6th December (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Rita Loughlin (3rd Anniv)

Sunday 7th – 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Cynthia Smith (Anniv)

11.30 Patrick Bowles (Anniv)

Monday 8th – **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patron of the Diocese**

09.30 Paul Curran

Tuesday 9th – Advent feria

09.30 Bridget O'Reilly RIP

Wednesday 10th – Advent feria

19.00 A. Skelly RIP

Thursday 11th – Advent feria

09.30 Ken Chisholm RIP

Friday 12th – Advent feria

09.30 Intention of Donor

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, A. Skelly, Breda Kelly, Teresa Pereira, Noel O'Brien.

Pray Also For, Rita Loughlin, Cynthia Smith, Patrick Bowles, Mary Rodrigues, Winifred Scally, Luke Lambe, Barbara Handler, Paddy Ryan, Anthony Buhagiar, Edmund St Clare-Burke, Henryk Kosminski, Mario Perdoni, Kathleen McDonnell and Anthony Mills whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve 24th December

5.00pm Family Mass

10.30pm Lessons and Carols followed by Mass

Christmas Day 25th December

08.30am Mass

10.00am Children's Mass

11.30am Mass

St Stephen's Day 26th December

11.00am Mass

For the rest of Christmas the Mass schedule will take place at the usual times except on Thursday, 1st January 2015 at 11.00am.

Baptisms We welcome Dexter Allen, Conganige Anthony and Jolina Johnson Rock who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Altar Servers Next week 13th/14th Dec Team A will serve.

'The Pylon' The Christmas Edition of our exciting Parish magazine is available in the porch. Price £1 (please put money in 'Papers' box). There are many articles written by members of the Parish which will be of great interest.



CAFOD Christmas Card Stall Open this weekend after all masses and every weekend until 21st December. **Traidcraft food and cards** will be sold in the porch after all masses next weekend – the stall will move into the Church hall after 10am and 11.30am Mass. The Traidcraft food stall will not be open in January/February 2015 so there will be some special offers on 13th/14th December.

Christmas Coffee Morning A warm invitation to all to come along and support the Christmas coffee morning next Sunday, 14th December. We shall be serving traditional Christmas food and selling raffle tickets for the wonderful Christmas hamper, which has kindly been donated by a parishioner, as well as other raffle prizes. All proceeds towards our church.

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.

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

'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 the baptismal font). 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.

Church Cleaners Copies of new rota on the shelf in the kitchen.

Churches Together in North Harrow The Christmas greetings cards are now available for distribution. Please collect your pack from the Church Porch.

Greetings card campaign This weekend 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).

Churches Together Sinai Mar Thoma Church, who use St George's church each Sunday, welcomes you all to their Christmas Carol Service on Sunday, 7th December at 5pm at St George's Church, Pinner View, followed by refreshments.

Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes with Anointing of the Sick in Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 7th February 2015 at 2pm The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. If you would like to participate in this Celebration and you or the person you are accompanying will be attending in a wheelchair please contact Claudia on 8429 5681/claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk by 19th December 2014.

Lost property A mobile phone was handed into the presbytery. Please contact Claudia on the number overleaf.

Crib figurines If you would like a set of crib figurines, please contact Cora Strachan at cstrachans@btinternet.com.