



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)

Christmas Double Edition: 21st December & 28th December 2014

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 noticed how there rarely seems to be a new Christmas record that is released at this time of year. We now seem to be living in the midst of the X Factor generation. But as a kid in the 70s I remember looking forward to the bands of the day releasing their Christmas song. And we were never disappointed, whether it was Roy Wood telling us, "I wish it could be Christmas everyday" or Slade, belting out "It's Christmas." It was fun. I guess Mariah Carey has kept up that noble tradition, telling us that, "All I want for Christmas is you." The sentiments of that song are dearly held and the record seems to have become something of an anthem. The words are both sentimental and poignant.

*I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents
Underneath the Christmas tree
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you*

Of course, what we all want is someone to share those special times with. What makes Christmas so special is the fact that at this time of year we open our hearts in friendship to each other and we try to make a difference to each other's lives by extending the spirit of hospitality, sharing a kind word or voicing our concern as we encounter our friends and families. "How's it all going, are you ready, have you got all your shopping done?"

We take the time to send cards to re-establish contact with those people that we don't see very often. But, deep down, we know that the best present that we can both give and receive is the present of concern and care. What animates our souls into this generous state of being is the generosity of God, who through the wonder of the Incarnation gave himself as a gift to others. It's that scene of utter generosity that we witness at Bethlehem. It is that scene that takes us to that place of goodness and concern for others and it is that scene that reveals to us the profound goodness that lies at the heart of each one of us and enables all of us to simply want to be with those we love.

I wish you all the joy of the Christmas season. I have got my present. Not Dylan, who you can see in the photo above, but each one of you. You give me such support and friendship. You have made this church your home and this community your family. Thank you!



Fr Shaun.



Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 20th December (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Chris Conlon & Phyllis Healy (Anniv)

Sunday 21st – 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 Michael Callaghan RIP

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Rita Maria Coutinho (Anniv)

Monday 22nd – Advent feria

09.30 Louis Wales RIP

Tuesday 23rd – Advent feria

09.30 Funeral of Al Matsumura RIP

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

17.00 Denis Coleman RIP

22.30 People of the Parish

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

08.30 Josef Schuster RIP

10.00 Mr. Brendan Connolly RIP

11.30 Dave Connor RIP

Friday 26th December St Stephen's Day

11.00 Joe Farragher RIP

Saturday 27th December (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Alfie Ferns RIP

Sunday 28th – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Mary O'Reilly (Anniv)

11.30 Ladislaus Albert (Anniv)

Monday 29th – ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr

09.30 Intention of Donor

Tuesday 30th – 6th DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

09.30 Julia O'Connor RIP, Rosemary Horan RIP

Wednesday 31st December New Year's Eve

19.00 Mrs. T. Rynne RIP

Thursday 1st January 2015 New Year's Day

11.00 Mary Connolly (Int)

Friday 2nd – Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

09.30 Gerard Taylor RIP

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, Seamus Monaghan, Theresa Tilbury, Peter Gould, Joe Farragher, Alfie Ferns, Julia O'Connor, Rosemary Horan, Mrs. T. Rynne, Rosita Wakelin, John Gerard Lowrey, Ellen Devery, Roy Etches, Margaret Purcell, Blossom Gunaratnam.

Pray Also For, Chris Conlon & Phyllis Healy, Rita Maria Coutinho, Mary O'Reilly, Ladislaus Albert, Christopher Hilton, Geoffrey Cheeseman, James McKenna, Patricia Ross, Isabelle Collins, Diana Morris, Bridget Devlin, Jim Walsh, Annie Mahon, (baby) Charlie Pollock, Wyn Bowker, Pat Bolwell, Frances Greenfield, Matthew Jackson, Tom Forde, Thomas Buckley, Mary Mills, John Morris, Clare Hynes, Danny Duffy, Tony Jordan, Raneem Emmanuel, Bridie Murphy, Frank Morawski, Maieread Trigg, Denis O'Shea, Sr. Mary Innocentia & Kevin Cronin whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Al Matsumura RIP Requiem Mass at St John Fisher on Tuesday, 23rd December at 9.30am followed by cremation at Breakspear. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends.

Altar Servers 27th/28th Dec Team A, 3rd/4th Jan Team B will serve.

"After three years' effort across the parishes of the diocese, our Growing in Faith campaign is coming to a close. I want very much indeed to express my thanks to you for the attention and support you have given to its three key themes: strengthening parish life; supporting priests, in formation and old age; and Caritas, our work with the poor. I thank you for your prayers, the work done by the volunteers and I thank all who have made financial contributions. In total, with gifts and pledges, a sum of £37 million has been given. This great achievement will do so much to enable us to meet our needs and look forward confidently. This is a marvellous measure of your great generosity and love for the Lord and His Church. Thank you so much. I also want to take this opportunity to wish you a graceful and peaceful Christmas, full of the Lord's blessings for you all and your family."

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

Baptism We welcome Noah Watts who is being baptised in our church.

Friday Coffee Morning On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Fridays of the month, there is a chance for parishioners to meet after Mass over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit in the Fisher Room. Everyone is welcome.

Young Adult Group Meeting On 4th January 2015 after 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room followed by lunch paid for by the Westminster Youth Centre. All young adults are cordially invited.

Youth 2000 Is organising a retreat for all young adults 18-35 in the diocese on 29th December 2014 - 1st January 2015 at Maria Fidelis Lower School, North Gower Street, Euston. It will be great to have our young adults in this diocesan retreat. For more info please contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com.

Parish Women's Group Meeting on Thursday, 8th January at 8pm in the small hall. This will be a Healthy Eating social. Cost £1. The event is open to all women of the parish. Please bring a bottle or small portion of "healthy food" to share. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Wednesday, 7th January 2015 at 8pm in the Social Club. Any Catholic men interested in finding out more about the Knights are most welcome to attend our meetings.

Need to top up your Christmas card supply? The last few packs of CAFOD cards (& some single cards at 20p) as well as Fairtrade chocolate & sweets are on sale in the porch this weekend.

Stamps for St. Luke's Hospice Please keep all used stamps. These provide valuable funds for our local hospice. Place in pigeonhole for Barbara Towell or hand into Parish office. Many thanks.

Christmas Coffee Morning With thanks to all who supported our coffee morning last Sunday which raised just over £200 and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) Crib Appeal 2014 With your support CCS is helping more children & families than ever before to break free from the poverty trap. 42% of children in the Diocese live in Poverty this Christmas – that's over 700,000 children. Please place your donation in the crib basket or see poster in porch for info. Many thanks for your support.

Christmas Collection Is traditionally taken for the support of the Parish Priest to help him in his ministry. Fr Shaun would like to thank everyone for their generosity.