



# 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)

## 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 ~ Epiphany of the Lord

### *We Welcome...*

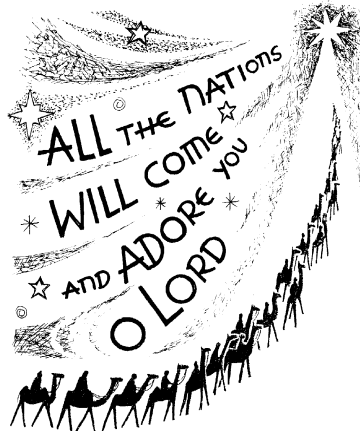
People of All Faiths and Cultures  
 Divorced or Separated Persons  
 Families with Children  
 Those in Loving Relationships  
 Those in Difficulty  
 Married Couples  
 Single Persons  
 Those in Recovery  
 Travellers from Far and Near  
 Widows and Widowers  
 Visitors

### *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.

Discipleship is for all, so there has to be another invitation to Herod and to all Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the city of the house of God, the place where God dwelt in the temple in the midst of his people. It was Herod who had built the Temple, this house of God, and Herod tended to regard God as his tenant. These mysterious strangers, who came from the edge of the world to the place the Jewish people considered the centre of the world, threatened Herod's control of his kingdom and of the temple.

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 that simple dwelling which gave shelter to the cradle of the king who will shepherd his people, there they offered their gifts. So, there are three invitations to worship the infant king, the shepherds and the wise men make the 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.

*Fr Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Intention of Donor

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Brendan Connolly (Int)

11.30 Julia O'Connor RIP, Rosemary Horan RIP

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Christmas feria

09.30 John Gerard Lowrey RIP

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Christmas feria

09.30 Margaret Purcell RIP

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Christmas feria

19.00 John Davis RIP

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – Christmas feria

09.30 Theresa Allams RIP

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Christmas feria

09.30 Bredin Family 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**, John Davis, Theresa Allams.

**Pray Also For**, James Tully, Anna Quigley, John Halvey, Michael Arulanantham, Dorothy Tucker, Michael Gahan, Charles Baldwin, Paul Harot, Veronica Joiner, Elsie Ball, Jeanne Le Forestier, William English, Joan Thrower and Hannah O'Leary whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**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.

**Parish 100 Club Winners** Ann Hughes 1<sup>st</sup> prize - £125, Angelika Worthington 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £100, Bernie Bell 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £60, John & Barbara Towell 4<sup>th</sup> prize - £30.

**Confirmation Candidates** All outstanding paperwork needs to be returned to Kay by Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January in preparation for your meeting on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 5.30pm till 7pm.

**Readers** If you can help, especially at the 11.30am Mass on Sunday, please contact Kay at [kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk).

**Altar Servers** Next week 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Jan Team A will serve.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Please contact Johnpromise at [promisemagnus@yahoo.com](mailto:promisemagnus@yahoo.com).

**SJF Ladies Club** Next Meeting on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January after mass. Everyone is welcome.

**Parish Women's Group** Meeting on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Mary's Meals** "Rags to riches" collection will take place the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> January, so please collect together unwanted clothing including bags, blankets, towels, curtains,

shoes and bedding (the condition does not matter) to bring to the church that weekend. Put your clothing etc (no bric-a-brac nor furniture please) into sacks. Please do not bring before then and only textiles. Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. For more info please see poster in porch.

**Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony at Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015 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 2015. If you qualify, please contact Claudia on [claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk) or 8429 5681 by **Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015** with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

**Credit Union Meeting** On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Hut behind St Joseph's Presbytery, 191 High Road, Harrow Weald.

**Called To Teach?** We are looking for Catholic Graduates. Have you considered a career change to teaching? We have vacancies on teacher training programmes for 2015-16 linked to Primary & Secondary Catholic Schools in West London. For more info please visit [www.wltsa.org.uk](http://www.wltsa.org.uk) or see poster on notice board.

**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.

**Pilgrims Progress** The January edition, including dates for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, is available in the porch.

**Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith** The Governing Body is consulting on its proposed Admission Arrangements for entry in September 2016 – Year 7 and Sixth Form. The draft Policies and Supplementary Information Forms/Application Forms are available to view on the school's website: [www.sacredhearthighschoolhammersmith.org.uk](http://www.sacredhearthighschoolhammersmith.org.uk). The consultation closes on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and any comments should be e-mailed to [sfinneran@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:sfinneran@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk).

**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.

**Mass Intentions** Thank you for your mass intentions which are greatly appreciated. We have Mass cards in the Church porch: for the living and for the dead. The cards are 50p each (please put money in 'papers' box at the back of the Church) and the offering suggested by the Diocese for a Mass is £10. If, however, you cannot afford this, £5 will suffice. If you would like to have a Mass offered, please contact Claudia on 020 8429 5681 or [claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk).

**St John Fisher Catholic Diaries 2015** Now available in the Church porch. Suggested donation £1. Please put money in 'Papers' box.

**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.