



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)

29th November 2015 ~ First Sunday of Advent Year C

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

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.



Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple colour associated with Advent is also the colour of penance. In order to show that we are truly hungry for the coming of Christ at Christmas some people have the custom of fasting during the first two weeks of Advent. That sense of longing and preparing for the coming of the Christ child is also expressed by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our own parish penance service is scheduled for Monday, 7th December at 8pm . Please try to make an effort to come along to this, especially as the Holy Year of mercy begins the following day.

You will also notice that on the third Sunday of Advent the liturgical colour changes to rose. This colour symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. This Sunday is called "Gaudete" Sunday; Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin.

Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. It is important to remember, however, there are no particular rules for how the laity should observe Advent.

Every week between now and Christmas we will light a candle on our Advent wreath. Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming as the Lord of all creation.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, THE HOLY SOULS ARE REMEMBERED AT ALL OUR MASSES.

Saturday 28th November (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 John Glavin (Anniv)

Sunday 29th – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 Private Intention

10.00 In Thanksgiving – John & Barbara Towell (25th Wedding Anniv)

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 30th – ST ANDREW, Apostle, Patron of Scotland

09.30 Sr. Teresa Geohegan (Anniv)

Tuesday 1st December – Advent feria

09.30 Terry Rough (Anniv)

Wednesday 2nd – Advent feria

19.00 Connie Teixeira, Jose Teixeira

Thursday 3rd – St Francis Xavier, Priest

09.30 Beryl Martin RIP

Friday 4th – Advent feria

09.30 Celine Arulanantham 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, Mary Russell, Jerr Cummins, Canon John Francis Formby.

Pray Also For John Glavin, Sr Teresa Geohegan, Terry Rough, Michael Chenley, Dymphna O'Shea, Mary Ryan, Jack Drury, Frank Carr, Christopher White, Ian Welham, Catherine Barker, Betty Williams, John Barnes and Barbara Buczek whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Maura Kugler who has died. Requiem Mass on Friday, 11th December at 11am at St John Fisher followed by cremation 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, 7th December at 8.00pm.

Parish Council Elections will take place on Sunday, 10th January 2016. Nomination papers for those wishing to stand as candidates will be available on Sunday, 6th December 2015. Nomination papers should be returned by noon on 19th December 2015. There are six vacancies and should more than six candidates be nominated the election will take place at the masses on 10th January 2016. Arrangements for the sick and housebound to vote will be announced later.

Tony Crick RIP The family wish to thank everyone for their kind prayers, mass cards, sympathy and support following their recent bereavement. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Altar Servers Next week 5th/6th Dec Team B will serve.

Confirmation candidates The next meeting is this Monday, 30th November at 5.30pm-7.00pm in the Parish Centre.

First Holy Communion Parents Meetings The last meeting for November will be in the Fisher room on Monday, 30th November at 7.30pm. Remember to bring your Reconciliation workbook.

CAFOD Christmas cards & Fairtrade Advent Calendars are on sale after mass in the porch this weekend.

Year of Mercy To help you celebrate the Year of Mercy, we are pleased to offer you a companion prayer book for the coming

holy year. A donation of £1 would be very much appreciated to cover the cost. Please put money in basket provided or in 'Papers' box.

St John Fisher Catholic Diaries 2016 Now available in the Church porch. Cost £1. Please put money in basket provided or in 'Papers' box at the back of the Church.

Westminster Year Book 2016 If you would like a copy at £4.50 each please collect one from the foyer of the sacristy either before or after Mass.

Parish 100 Club The 100 club is a wonderful way to support the parish and fundraise so that we can pay for the new sanctuary. Forms are available from the wall rack by the right hand side notice board in the porch. Please could parishioners who pay yearly make their next contribution of £60 in order to be included in any future lottery draws. Cheques payable to "St John Fisher RC Church". You've got to be in it to win it! **November Draw Winners are:** 1st prize - £125 Tony & Pat McWilliams, 2nd prize - £100 Anna Gawn, 3rd prize - £60 Jean Annis, 4th prize - £30 Caroline Billiet.

SJF Young Adults Group This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together, to get to know one another and get more involved in the life of the parish and the diocese.

We meet on the first Sunday of the month after the 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room. The next meeting is on 6th December. Contact Johnpromise promisemagnus@yahoo.com.

Christmas Parish Coffee Morning Join your fellow parishioners in the small hall, on December 13th after 10am and 11.30am Mass, to meet up socially before Christmas. Drinks and snacks will be available, and raffle tickets (£1 a strip of 5) will be on sale after all masses, the raffle being drawn at the end of the 11.30 coffee morning. Even if you can't come, please support the raffle as all proceeds go to the Parish debt. **If anyone is able to donate prizes for the raffle, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let Father Shaun, Kay or Claudia know.** *Many thanks.*

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 3rd December 2015 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, 6th 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.

Parish Women's Group (PWG) Our next meeting on Thursday, 10th December is a party games evening at 8.00pm in the Parish hall. Please bring some festive refreshments to share. Cost £1.

Christmas Concert Come and join our Christmas celebrations on Friday, 18th December at 7.30pm in St John Fisher Parish Centre. Well known songs performed by the Apollo Male Singers, St John Fisher Choir and other guest singers. Tickets £8 (£5 Concession & Children). Tickets on the door. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please come and support this event. Profits go to Church funds. For more info please contact Ashley on 020 8723 5307.

Churches Together - First Sunday of Advent The Churches Together Service marking the start of Advent this year is today at 6.30pm at St. Alban's church (on the Ridgeway).

Gunnersbury Catholic School - Mr James Doyle Memorial Mass The school will be having within the school a memorial mass for their former Deputy Headteacher, Mr James Doyle, on Thursday, 10th December at 7pm. All former pupils and their parents, in addition to previous colleagues and friends, are very welcome to attend.