



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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[www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk](http://www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk)

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## 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015 ~ 2nd 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

*Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To thee do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve.  
To thee do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy towards us,  
and after this our exile,  
show unto us the Blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

*Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,  
that we may be made worthy  
of the promises of Christ.*

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy begins with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door in the Vatican on 8<sup>th</sup> December. In the Diocese Cardinal Nichols will open the Holy Door in Westminster Cathedral in the context of Vespers and Benediction at 3.30pm on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December. You are very welcome to attend.

However, if Westminster is a step too far then we also have a local Holy Door. This is located at St William of York, 1 Du Cross Drive Stanmore, HA7 4TJ. This Holy Door will be opened on New Year's Day, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January at 10.00am.

Those making a brief pilgrimage during the Year to the Cathedral Holy Door or the other doors throughout the Diocese may gain the Jubilee Indulgence for themselves or for the Holy Souls. To gain the indulgence you have to enter through the Holy Door, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, perform a corporal work of mercy and pray for the Pope's intention.

People often ask what an indulgence is. In brief, an indulgence removes the harmful consequences of a sin even after that sin is forgiven. Sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act but God's mercy, becomes an indulgence which "reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him from every residue of sin, enabling him to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin." An indulgence is a gift from God which is always linked to certain prayers and actions. By undertaking such prayers and actions we show that we are willing to receive this great and merciful gift from the Father who loves us.

So, by participating in the Holy Year and performing the prescribed actions we will experience the consoling love of God, we will feel that the negative impact of our sins will be healed and we will be renewed in hope. Then we should feel inspired to bring God's mercy to others by caring for them both spiritually and materially. Over the coming weeks I will try to give some insights into the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and this will begin with our penance service on Monday night at 8pm. Please try to come along, not only to prepare yourself for Christmas but also to ready yourself to participate in the Holy Year of Mercy.

The Cardinal has prepared a small booklet entitled, *A Pilgrimage Companion for the Year of Mercy*. This little book tries to offer some insights into the mercy of God so that we might experience God's mercy to the full. Everyone in the parish should have received a copy of the booklet. If you did not then copies are available in the porch. Please help yourself and if you can afford to help us cover printing costs then your contribution of £1.00 would be gratefully received.

More information about the events during the year, Holy Doors and the Indulgence is available at <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>.

May this Holy Year be for all, as Pope Francis wishes, 'a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God.'

*Fr Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 Dennis Stuart (Anniv)

10.00 Luke Lambe (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv)

11.30 Roger Dunne RIP

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

09.30 Gwen Stuart (Anniv)

**20.00 Advent Penitential Service**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

09.30 Lilian Lim RIP, Barbara Handler (Anniv)

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Advent feria

19.00 Ken Richells RIP

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> – Advent feria

09.30 Liên Nguyễn (Int)

**12.00 Funeral of Catherine Mariasoosai RIP**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> – Advent feria

09.30 Celine Arulanantham RIP

**11.00 Funeral of Maura Kugler 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**, Catherine Mariasoosai, Nell O'Leary, Joaquim de Sousa Simoes.

**Pray Also For** Dennis Stuart, Luke Lambe, Gwen Stuart, Barbara Handler, Beryl Everitt, Mary Rodrigues, Rita Loughlin, James Monaghan, Patrick Bowles, Winifred Scally, Theresa Tilbury, Paddy Ryan, Al Matsumura, Anthony Buhagiar, Edmund St Clare-Burke, Henryk Kosminski, Cynthia Smith, Mario Perdoni and Kathleen McDonnell whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Please Remember** Catherine Mariasoosai who has died. Requiem Mass on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 12 Noon at St John Fisher followed by burial at Carpenders Park Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

**Baptisms** We welcome James Daniel, Evelyn Li-Mow-Ching, Tommy McDonagh and Teddy Smith who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

**Altar Servers** Next week 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Dec Team A will serve.

**Proclaim Mercy** There will be an opportunity to think about the coming Holy Year and pray together after the 9.30am Mass in the Fisher Room on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

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

**CAFOD Christmas cards** On sale in the porch this weekend. The last date for card and gift orders is **next Sunday** (13th December). Fairtrade food will also be on sale next weekend.

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

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



## Christmas Mass Times

*Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December*

5.00pm Family Mass

10.30pm Lessons and Carols followed by Mass

*Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December*

08.30am Mass

10.00am Children's Mass

11.30am Mass



*St Stephen's Day 26<sup>th</sup> December*

6.00pm Mass

For the rest of Christmas the Mass schedule will take place at the usual times except on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at 11.00am.

**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 in the porch. Please could parishioners who pay yearly make their next contribution of £60 in order to be included in any future draws. Cheques payable to "St John Fisher RC Church". You've got to be in it to win it!

**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 today.** Contact Sherna Bhadresa at [sherna\\_bhadresa@msn.com](mailto:sherna_bhadresa@msn.com) / 07785 615791. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

**'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 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.

**Christmas Parish Coffee Morning** Next Sunday after 10am and 11.30am Mass. Drinks and snacks will be available and raffle tickets (£1 a strip of 5) will be on sale after all masses. All proceeds go to the Parish debt. **If anyone is able to donate prizes for the raffle, please let Kay or Claudia know.**

**Christmas Concert** On Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Well known songs performed by the Apollo Male Singers, St John Fisher Choir and other guest singers. Tickets £8 (£5 Concession & Child). Tickets on the door. Tea/coffee will be provided. Profits go to Church funds. For more info please contact Ashley on 8723 5307.

**ACAT greetings card campaign** Could you send an extra card to a prisoner of conscience, victim of torture or organisation working for human rights? All you need to do this weekend or next is to collect a card, address label and details of the person/ group from the card stall in the porch, add your greeting and (if you are able to) donate £1 for postage. Please include your person/ group in your prayers this advent.

**Monica O'Sullivan RIP** The family would like to sincerely thank the people of the parish for all their kindness shown to us at the time of mum's death, for the Mass cards, message of sympathy and all your prayers. We would especially like to thank Fr. Shaun for all his help and support at this sad time. The Holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

**Ana Francisca Texeira RIP** The family wish to thank Fr. Shaun and 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.