



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

13th December 2015 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C 'Gaudete in Domino semper, iterum dico gaudete.'

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.*

Already regarded by many as the "Pope of Mercy," Pope Francis offered another motive for the title when some time ago he made a the surprise announcement that beginning on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th 2015, there would be an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. The Pope said that he wants make it evident that the Church's mission is as a witness of compassion. Francis made the announcement in St. Peter's Basilica while celebrating a penitential service on the second anniversary of his pontificate.

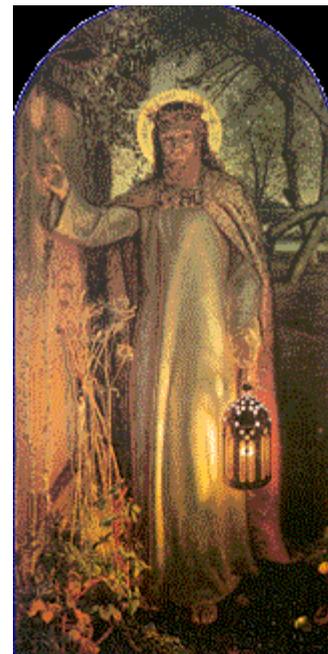
Repeating the words he used during his first Angelus as pope, on March 17th, 2013 Pope Francis reminded us "not to forget that God forgives always," and he went on to say. "Let us never tire of asking for forgiveness."

Having already described his entire papacy as a "Kairos" of mercy, meaning a privileged moment in God's plan of salvation, Francis said the time is ripe for that message. The Holy Father went on, "I am convinced that the whole Church - which has much need to receive mercy, because we are sinners - will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time."

Traditionally, every 25 years popes proclaim a holy year. Such years feature special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially confession. Extraordinary holy years, like the Holy Year of Mercy, are less frequent, but offer the same opportunities for spiritual growth.

This Holy Year will focus on the idea of God's mercy. To demonstrate our desire for such mercy we are asked just like the Pope not only to walk through a Holy Door but also to open the door of our hearts to Jesus and to each other. As we begin this Kairos moment, perhaps we might concentrate on the image of the door. In the Book of Revelation we read. "Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come into share a meal at that person's side. (Rev. 3:20.)

This image of the door asks us to imagine Jesus wanting to be with us knocking at the door of our hearts. His only desire is to be with us and to share himself with us through the gift of the Eucharist. The tenderness of this message was beautifully caught by William Holman Hunt in his painting *The Light of the World*. Let us pray that through this Holy Year we will listen for Jesus knocking at the door of our hearts and that we have the grace to respond to him so that as he shares himself with us our lives may be flooded with the mercy of the Father.



Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 12th December (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Ronald Paulo RIP

Sunday 13th – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Patrick Bowles RIP

11.30 Mary & Tony Mills (Anniv)

Monday 14th – St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

09.30 Peter Gould (Anniv)

Tuesday 15th – Advent feria

09.30 Horst Nekut RIP, Kåre Bjørnerud (Anniv)

Wednesday 16th – Advent feria

19.00 Melissa Grove (Anniv)

Thursday 17th – Advent feria

09.30 Delma Kulasingham (Anniv)

Friday 18th – Advent feria

09.30 In Thanksgiving (**St. John Fisher School at Mass**)

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, Teresa Gormley, Irene Scott, Jimmy Devlin.

Pray Also For Mary & Tony Mills, Peter Gould, Kåre Bjørnerud, Delma Kulasingham, Stanislaus Bannis, Theresa Fallon, Josie Tobin, Rosita Wakelin, Virginia Cabral Francisco, Waclaw Kowalewicz, Frank Beesley, Virginia Dellamura and Bridie Haynes whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Altar Servers Next week **19th/20th Dec Team B** will serve.

Parish Council Elections take place on Sunday, 10th January 2016. Nomination papers for those wishing to stand as candidates are available from the porch. 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.

Christmas Offering Attached to this week's newsletter is an envelope in which you can make a Christmas Offering for Fr Shaun. These offerings support him in his ministry here in the Parish and they will be collected over the Masses of Christmas. Thank you for your kindness and generosity at this time.

Christmas Posters Please collect your poster from the porch.

CAFOD Christmas cards & Fairtrade food are on sale in the porch this weekend. The last date for card and gift orders is **today**.

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 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 can afford it) donate £1 for postage.

Christmas Parish Coffee Morning Please join us today after 10am and 11.30am Mass in the Parish Centre. 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.

'Lights of Life' Christmas Tree Please fill in a card if you so wish and put it in the box (near the baptismal font). Your card will be put on the tree from this weekend. A memory book is also available to write the names of those you wish to remember.

Cleaning Rota for 2016 has been prepared and those without emails will find a copy in their pigeon holes. A copy of the rota can also be found on the Parish website.



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

6.00pm Mass

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

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 Sunday, 10th January 2016. Contact Sherna Bhadresa at sherna_bhadresa@msn.com / 07785 615791. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

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. The yearly contribution is £60 (£5 per month) - cheques payable to "St John Fisher RC Church". You've got to be in it to win it!

Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes with Anointing of the Sick in Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 6th February 2016 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 Friday, 22nd January 2016.

Refugee Volunteer Evening On 26th January at 6pm-8.30pm in the Westminster Centre for Youth Ministry, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston NW1 1TA. All welcome. For more details please see flier in the porch.

Christmas Concert On Friday, 18th 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.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party To end the Christmas season with a bang rather than a whimper, we are pleased to invite our senior parishioners to come to lunch on Sunday, 31st January 2016 at 12.30pm. All replies to be returned to the presbytery by Sunday, 17th January.

NAME..... TEL NO.....

ADDRESS.....

.....
Please state clearly if you require transport.

TRANSPORT REQUIRED YES/NO