



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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

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## Christmas Edition 2015

### 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.*

How wonderful it is this year to be able to celebrate Christmas within the context of the Holy Year of Mercy. When Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in Rome on December the 8<sup>th</sup> he invited the whole Church to reflect on the nature of God. It is the Father of mercies who through his Son invites each one of us to that deep and loving encounter whereby we know that we are not alone, that we are loved and that because of the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives we too are capable of standing in solidarity with those who feel lost and alone.

At this time of year we think of another holy door. The door of the stable at Bethlehem. As we push open that door we step inside the stable to glimpse that scene which we know so well. We see Joseph and his wife Mary with their new born son who is all wrapped up against the winter cold and who is lying on a bed of straw in a manger. They are poor but they have everything – they have love.



The faces of Joseph and Mary are full of delight. The star shines above them and joining them are the shepherds who have been told to go to Bethlehem and to walk through the door of that same stable so that they too may gaze upon the Christ Child. The song of the angels is still ringing in their ears as they look at this little boy and his parents and they are filled with a sense of wonder and awe.

So there we have it, a picture of trust and innocence of hope and of love. These are the things that we celebrate at Christmas. Our world can sometimes be quite a dark place, but the picture of that Christmas scene penetrates the gloom that our world inhabits. Bethlehem speaks to us of God's mercy and his abiding presence, it is because of that, our hearts are filled with joy.

As we celebrate Christmas during this Holy Year of Mercy I hope that you will feel the abiding and loving presence of God in your lives. I hope that all those that you love and care for will be blessed by the God who wants nothing more than to be with us. It can be very difficult to proclaim the love and mercy of God when there is so much suffering and heartache in the world. Yet it is the very act of our faith filled proclamation of the God of love that leads us to understand the meaning of Emmanuel, that God is with us and that he stands alongside us helping us to glimpse that deeper reality which enables us to live that pattern of merciful love in our lives which celebrates all that is best about us.

Have a wonderful Christmas, God bless you all.

*Fr Shaun.*



## Mass Times & Intentions

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 (baby) Rory Devlin RIP

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 Dellamura Family RIP

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 In Thanksgiving – Kamlesh & Irene Bhadresa (30<sup>th</sup> Wedd Anniv)

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Advent feria

09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Advent feria

09.30 Mary Margaret RIP & Stephen RIP

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Advent feria

19.00 Holy Souls

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

17.00 Micheal Conway RIP

22.30 People of the Parish

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

08.30 Fr Norman Wrigley RIP

10.00 Ana Texeira RIP

11.30 Mick McBreen RIP, Annie Donovan (Anniv)

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Mrs. T. Rynne RIP

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

08.30 In Thanksgiving – Julien & Ruth Melville (40<sup>th</sup> Wedd Anniv)

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Ladislaus Albert (Anniv)

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs

09.30 Ann O'Malley RIP

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> – ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr

09.30 Ana Texeira RIP

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

19.00 Monica O'Sullivan RIP

*Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December New Year's Eve*

09.30 Mr. Howard Filbey RIP

*Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 New Year's Day*

11.00 Intention of Donor

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Patricia Jackson RIP

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

08.30 Al Matsumura & Maria Keiko Matsumura RIP

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Michael Arulanantham (Anniv)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Christmas feria

09.30 Adrian Taylor (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv)

**11.00 Funeral of Josephine Stevenson RIP**

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

09.30 Jack & Bruno Gaffney (Anniv)

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

19.00 Cynthia Mary Smith (Anniv)

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

09.30 Gerard Taylor RIP

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

09.30 Breda Keating 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,** Inge Tichy, Bridie Bell, Margaret Lydon, Josephine Stevenson.

**Parish Council Elections** take place on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**Please Remember** Josephine Stevenson who has died. Requiem Mass on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 11am at St. John Fisher followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

**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.

**'The Pylon'** The Christmas Edition of our exciting Parish magazine is available in the porch. Price £1 (please put money in 'Papers' box at the back of the Church).

**Altar Servers** 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Dec **Team A**, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2016 **Team B**, 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Jan **Team A** will serve. *Christmas Mass Servers are displayed on notice board.*

**CAFOD Christmas Stall** The remaining stock of **Christmas cards**, Fairtrade chocolate & sweets are on sale this weekend. Thank you for supporting the stall this year.

**Christmas Coffee Morning** The following prizes are waiting for collection - pink ticket 381 Ms Harrison, yellow ticket 556 Ms Anthony, yellow ticket 671 & blue ticket 41. Collect your prize from Kay. £490.09 was raised. Thank you for your support.

**Parish 100 Club - December Draw Winners are:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize - £125 Marianne Leeson, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £100 Helen McCormack, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £60 Ann Georgi, 4<sup>th</sup> prize - £30 Patricia McCarthy.

**SJF Ladies Club** On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 we will celebrate the Epiphany with a Welsh Cawl meal in the Parish hall after 7pm Mass. Please advise Teresa 8427 3063 if you are attending.

**Knights of St. Columba** Next meeting on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 8pm in the Social Club.

**SJF Young Adults Group** We meet on the first Sunday of the month after the 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room. The next meeting is on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Contact Sherna Bhadresa at [sherna\\_bhadresa@msn.com](mailto:sherna_bhadresa@msn.com) / 07785 615791.

**Refugee Volunteer Evening** On 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Mary's Meals "Rags to riches" collection** will take place the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 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) into tied 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. Please see poster in porch.

**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, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at 12.30pm. All replies to be returned to the presbytery by Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> January.

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

ADDRESS.....

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

**TRANSPORT REQUIRED YES/NO**