



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 (Mon-Wed-Fri 9.30am-1.30pm)

27th November 2016 ~ First Sunday of Advent Year A

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

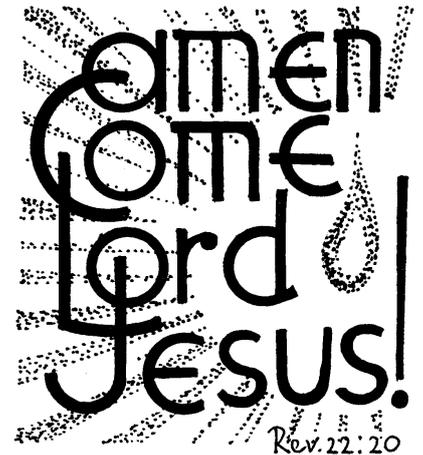
We Seek...

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

Just like the Advent candle that we light today we too are inflamed by the Spirit. Each of us, through the lives we live and the moral choices we make prepares the world for the coming of the Lord. The scripture tells us that how we act contributes to the fulfilment of Isaiah's vision of peace and fidelity to the Lord. As the fire consumes the Advent candle, so charity has been ignited in our hearts to consume each of us, making of our lives a gift to others.



We are each given the grace to become, in Christ's likeness, a sacrifice of love offered to God. This is what we're each called to as Christians. The lighting of our Advent candles, one by one, remind us that we are to "walk in the light of the Lord". For we are not lone flames but we are also called altogether as children of the light to scatter the darkness of the night – the darkness of sin in our families, our homes, our communities, our society and country – and so to proclaim: "salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed".

The new liturgical year which begins with the season of Advent calls each one of us to renewal. But such renewal is only possible if we try to know and love God and seek to do his will. The flame of charity has to consume the wax of our sinful selves if we're to shine with Christ's light.

Every day brings new opportunities to help us grow in virtue so that we can put into perspective the illusory things that we think we desire and instead love what God loves. This means that we have to be awake, to avoid sleep-walking through life, so that we recognise the limitations of our culture and surroundings which may not truly reflect our Christian belief. If we don't do this the light we shed will be minimal and might even be extinguished. This is why St Paul says: "it is full time now for you to wake from sleep". Now! Now is the time to wake up, and stand ready and prepared, with our candles lit; with love for Christ burning in our hearts. For, as we were told at our baptisms, "when the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom". So let's have the courage to think differently, to turn off all the world's artificial lights that twinkle and charm us, and ignite again the candle lit from the true Light this Advent. Maranatha - come Lord Jesus!

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

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

Saturday 26th November 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Betty Elsdon RIP

Sunday 27th – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 The Holy Souls

10.00 Philip Mendonca RIP

11.30 Ana Francisca Texeira RIP

Monday 28th – Advent feria

09.30 People of the Parish

Tuesday 29th – Advent feria

09.30 Gallagher Family

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

11.00 Requiem Mass for Peter O'Brien RIP

19.00 Joaquim Simoes (1st Anniv)

Thursday 1st December – Advent feria

09.30 Terry Rough (Anniv)

Friday 2nd – Advent feria

09.30 Dr Nihal Ranasinghe 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, Anthony Fernandes, Helen Wiggins.

Pray Also For Joaquim Simoes, Terry Rough, Aaron McDyre, Catherine Sullivan, Catherine Mariasoosai, Michael Chenley, Dymphna O'Shea, Mary Ryan, Jack Drury, Frank Carr, Christopher White, Ian Welham, Nell O'Leary, Catherine Barker, Betty Williams and John Barnes whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Advent Penitential Service at St. John Fisher – Change of Date

This will now take place on **Tuesday, 6th December at 8.00pm.**

Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 28th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Our Weekly Newsletter We are now sending out test emails. If you have not received one please check your spam filters and release the domain. If you have not given us your email details then you will need to subscribe by following this link <http://eepurl.com/coXHxD>.

Theology onTap Where was Jesus born and When? Did the three Kings come from the East and is the Star just a symbol? These and other questions about the Mystery of the Incarnation will be discussed at our next TOT, this takes place in the parish bar on 14th December at 7.30pm. Born in a stable? See you there!

Saturday Morning Religious Education Class There will be a class for children in the Fisher Room on Saturday, 3rd December from 9.00am–10.30am. New children wishing to attend will need to register beforehand. Contact Kay for more information 020 8429 5682 / kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk.

'Tiny Tim Appeal' Thanks to everyone who signed up. You can now place your gifts in the box located in the porch. The cut-off date is Sunday, 4th December. The gifts will be collected by PACT a day or so after this, so we need your gifts in by this specified date.

Cleaning Rota 2017 The new rota has been sent to those with an email address. There is a copy of the rota in your pigeonhole if you have not provided an email address.

Westminster Year Book 2017 If you would like a copy at £4.50 each please collect one from the foyer of the sacristy either before or after Mass.

CAFOD Christmas cards & a few remaining Divine chocolate Advent calendars are on sale in the porch this weekend. Next weekend there will be cards to sign for people on the Acat (Action by Christians against torture) list of prisoners of conscience. Cards & address labels are provided so you just need to take a few minutes to write a message & give the card back to be posted.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 1st December at 8pm in the Social Club.

SJF Young Adults Group This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together. Everyone is welcome. Our next meeting is on **Sunday, 4th December** after the 11.30am in the Fisher Room. Contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

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, 4th December at 2-5pm in the Parish Hall. The afternoon will close with light refreshments.

Parish Women's Group Our meeting on 8th December at 8.00pm in the parish hall will be a party games evening. Please bring some festive refreshments to share. Why not join in the fun? Cost £1. For more info contact elena.johnston@btinternet.com.

Christmas Coffee Morning On Sunday, 11th December after 10am and 11.30am Mass in the Parish Hall. Coffee, tea, juices, croissants, cake, crisps available. We will have a craft stall this year selling beautiful knitted garments and handmade goods. If you have any home-crafted items for the stall please drop them into the presbytery by Friday, 9th December. Even if you don't know many people, a warm welcome awaits you, so pop in, even if you can only stay a short while.

Knitting Group Next meeting on Friday, 2nd December at 2pm in the Fisher Room. Come for a social get together & help Bakita House. A joint **SJF Ladies/Knitting Group Meeting** will take place on Friday, 16th December at 2pm in the Fisher Room with mulled wine & mince pies.

Churches Together in North Harrow - First Sunday of Advent The Churches Together Service marking the start of Advent this year is **today at 6.30pm** at the Parish Church of St. George, Pinner View, Harrow.

Churches Together in North Harrow St John Fisher members are currently looking for new representatives. To find out more, please contact Angela on 8866 3318 or Nicola on 8868 2536.

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School The Academy Trust of the School is consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for entry in September 2018. The consultation will close on Tuesday, 20th December 2016. If you would like to read the arrangements or comment on them, please follow the admissions link on our website www.cvms.co.uk <<http://www.cvms.co.uk>>.

Salvatorian College 90th Anniversary Celebration All past students and teachers are invited on **Tuesday, 6th December 2016**. School is open from 5pm with memorabilia on display, Mass with Bishop John Wilson at 7pm at St Joseph's Wealdstone, Reception afterwards in the school. Please RSVP and send any old photos or memorabilia you would like to share to admin@salvatorian.harrowsch.uk.