



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531

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

## 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 ~ Second Sunday of Advent Year A

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### *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

John the Baptist bursts on the scene every Advent as the Forerunner to Christ: 'the one who follows me is more powerful than I, and I am not fit to carry his sandals'. In his preaching, Jesus actually has the same message as John – 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand' (Mt 4:17) – but the focus is different. John is the signpost, the one who points to Jesus.



John is the voice crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. Whereas Jesus is the Lord incarnate, the one who says, 'Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest' (Mt 11:28). John baptises with water for repentance, but acknowledges a greater baptism to come: it is Jesus who 'will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire', for the forgiveness of sins.

This is the Spirit of which Isaiah speaks in our first reading: 'a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of piety, and his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord'. Here we have the scriptural basis for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, with which we are strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

John the Baptist was filled with these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. His mother Elizabeth was 'filled with the Holy Spirit' at the moment John leapt in her womb to greet the unborn Christ (Lk 1:41). Thus John is understood to have been sanctified in the womb, receiving the fullness of sanctifying grace, which is why the Church celebrates the feast of his birth on 24 June, the only person to be so honoured besides Christ and Mary. Then as a grown man, John exhibited the gifts of the Spirit, having knowledge and wisdom, a deep insight into God's unfolding plan, and being inspired to preach with counsel and power that piety and fear of the Lord are necessary for repentance.

The Pharisees and Saducees who heard John preaching think that they have a guaranteed place in the kingdom without producing the fruits of repentance and conversion. They underestimate the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. We should not follow their example. The Spirit is even now calling us to repentance and faith in Christ this Advent. Why not take up the invitation of the Spirit and come along to our Advent Penance Service on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm.

*Fr Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Mary Crawley RIP

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 Rosa Faleiro RIP

10.00 Luke Lambe (4<sup>th</sup> Anniv)

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Advent feria

09.30 Gerald Taylor (Anniv)

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Advent feria

09.30 Mellisa Grove RIP

**20.00 Advent Penitential Service**

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

19.00 Al Matsumura (Anniv)

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED**

**VIRGIN MARY, Patron of the Diocese**

09.30 Michael Murphy

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Advent feria

09.30 John & Marian Cunningham

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**, William Peacocke.

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

**Baptisms** We welcome Colin Appuhami and Oliver Ilkhamov who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

**Our Weekly Newsletter** We are now sending out test emails. If you have not given us your email details then please 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 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Born in a stable? See you there!

**Westminster Year Book 2017** Available from the foyer of the sacristy before or after mass at £4.50 each.

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

**Church Crib** Setting out our beautiful church crib is a wonderful way for families to celebrate Christmas. We are now seeking a couple of families to volunteer to take over this special activity from next year. It doesn't take long and you will be shown what is involved this year. For more information please contact [elena.johnston@btinternet.com](mailto:elena.johnston@btinternet.com).

**CAFOD Christmas cards** are on sale in the porch after all masses this weekend. **Today** there are cards to sign for people on the Acat (Action by Christians against torture) list of prisoners of conscience. Cards, info about prisoners & address labels are provided so you just need to write a message & give the card back to be posted. Postage costs over £1 per card so donations for stamps are welcome.

**SJF Ladies/Knitting Group Meeting** On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in the Fisher Room with mulled wine & mince pies.



## 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*

11.00am Mass

*Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> December*

No Mass

For the rest of Christmas the Mass schedule will take place at the usual times.

**'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.

**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 **today** after the 11.30am in the Fisher Room. Contact Johnpromise at [promisemagnus@yahoo.com](mailto:promisemagnus@yahoo.com).

**Celebrate Advent with Friends for Friends** Help us decorate the 1:1 Club Christmas Tree, hear the Christmas story, sing your favourite carols **today** at 2-5pm in the Parish Hall. The afternoon will close with light refreshments.

**Parish Women's Group** Our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:elena.johnston@btinternet.com).

**Christmas Coffee Morning** Next **Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December** after 10am & 11.30am Mass in the Parish Hall. We shall be serving traditional Christmas food and selling raffle tickets for the wonderful Christmas hamper, kindly donated by a parishioner, as well as other raffle prizes which will be on display in the porch. All proceeds towards the Parish debt. Raffle tickets are £1 a strip, available after all masses and at the coffee morning. If you would like to donate prizes for the raffle, please drop them into the presbytery. A **craft stall in the Church hall** will be selling beautiful knitted garments and handmade goods in aid of Bakita House. If you have any home-crafted items for the stall please drop them into the presbytery by Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. A warm welcome awaits you, so pop in, even if you can only stay a short while.

**Parish 100 Club Draw – November 2016 Winners:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize £125 Claire Tarling, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £70 Frank Cardona, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £50 Brian O'Riordan.

**Sick & Retired Priests' Fund** £2,225.86 was raised. Thank you for your generosity.

**Car Park Clean-up** Thank you to everyone who helped clean up the car park last Saturday. I'm sure you will agree that the space looks a lot better.

**Salvatorian College 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – CHANGE OF DATE** All past students and teachers are invited on **Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016**. School open from 5pm, Mass with Bishop John Wilson at 7pm at St Joseph's Wealdstone, followed by reception. Please RSVP to [admin@salvatorian.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:admin@salvatorian.harrow.sch.uk).

