



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)

Christmas Double Edition 2016: 25th December 2016 & 1st January 2017

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

At this time of year I love the fact that we sing Christmas carols. Whether it's the simplicity of "Infant holy, infant lowly" or the solemnity of Christina Rossetti's, "In the bleak mid- winter." The well-known tunes and the poetry of the carols provide an easy familiarity which can take us back to a time when life was not complicated and where all that mattered was simply being with the people that we love.



In the picture above you will see that sometimes, snow can indeed 'fall on snow'. With the advent of climate change such scenes may well be a thing of the past. That's a pity, because the world seems a little bit more magical when it takes on the glistening new look that snow can give, even if this only lasts for a day or two.

And yet Carols also provide us with a backdrop of memory that enables us to not only appreciate the past but rejoice in the present moment of our lives as well as look forward to the future. They help us to glisten, and to bathe in the love that we have for each other, which of course is a reflection of God's love for us.

The knowledge that we are loved and wanted helps us to endure those moments when life seems to test us. When things seem dark and when life is bleak. It is at that moment that we should raise our eyes to the night sky and glimpse in our mind's eye that "star of wonder" which led the magi to the stable at Bethlehem.

The star which leads and guides us can come in many guises. It can be those solid relationships which we have forged throughout our lives. Or perhaps the opportunity to stand alongside those who are weak, vulnerable or marginalised. Or it could be those moments when we reach out to our brothers and sisters who need our practical help.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this year, I glimpse the star which is guiding our community. The star which we call, "Mercy." The various commitments that we have made to stand alongside those who need our help will take us to the poverty of the stable. But, it will also help us glimpse the wonder of the promise of life and hope that the new born Jesus brings.

Thank you for all your help and support over this last year. I wish you and your loved ones a blessed, happy and holy Christmas.

Fr Shaun.





Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

17.00 Mark Power RIP & Family

22.30 People of the Parish

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

08.30 John & Virginia Dellamura RIP

10.00 Thanksgiving for Mesquita Family

11.30 Monica & Billy O'Sullivan RIP

Monday 26th December St Stephen's Day

11.00 Mary Flynn

Tuesday 27th – ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist

NO MASS

Wednesday 28th – THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs

19.00 For all deceased

Thursday 29th – ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr, Patron of the Parish Clergy

09.30 Ana Teixeira RIP

Friday 30th – HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

09.30 Kathleen Middleton RIP

Saturday 31st December 2016 New Year's Eve

18.00 Nora Sweeney (Anniv)

Sunday 1st January 2017 New Year's Day

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Bernard Bleach RIP

11.30 Special Intention

Monday 2nd – Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

09.30 Family & Friends (In Thanksgiving – Harry & Elizabeth Gallagher)

Tuesday 3rd – Christmas feria

09.30 Peter McBride RIP

Wednesday 4th – Christmas feria

19.00 Daniel Bowles (Anniv)

Thursday 5th – Christmas feria

09.30 Bridget Ryan & Victor Crick RIP

17.00 Reception Service for Jeanette Gething RIP

Friday 6th – Christmas feria

09.30 Brian, Helen & Maureen Gaffney (Anniv)

11.00 Requiem Mass for Jeanette Gething 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, Louis Holt, Michael Barrett, Thomas McNerney, Jeanette Gething, Canon John McDonald.

Pray Also For Nora Sweeney, Daniel Bowles, Brian, Helen & Maureen Gaffney, Isabelle Collins, Diana Morris, Bridget Devlin, Agnes McCourt, Jim Walsh, Annie Mahon, (baby) Charlie Pollock, Wyn Bowker, Pat Bolwell, Frances Greenfield, Matthew Jackson, Tom Forde, Thomas Buckley Mary Mills, Joan O'Keeffe, John Morris, Clare Hynes, Danny Duffy, Tony Jordan, Raneem Emmanuel, Susan Margaret Hill, Bridie Murphy, Frank Morawski, Maieroad Trigg, Denis O'Shea, Sr Mary Innocentia, Kevin Cronin, James Tully, Anna Quigley, John Halvey, Michael Arulanantham, Dorothy Tucker, Michael Gahan, Charles Baldwin and Lilian Blackie whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to ensure that our Christmas celebrations went so well. We couldn't do it without you.

Bishop's Visitation Our area bishop John Sherrington will make a visitation to the parish on the weekend of 25th/26th February 2017. More details to follow.

Theology on Tap - Holy Mother! What is the Church? On Wednesday, 18th January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Social Club. We all think about the Church in different ways, Mother, Institution, Herald of the Gospel. But what has informed our thinking and how do we understand the Church?

Mary's Meals Save all your old clothes because on 4th/5th February 2017 representatives from Mary's Meals will be here for their annual collection. Please do not bring clothes before this date as we have nowhere to store them.

St John Fisher Catholic Diaries 2017 Now available in the Church porch. Cost £1. Please put money in basket provided or in 'Papers' box at the back of the Church.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 5th January 2017 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. **We meet on the first Sunday of the month after the 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room.** There is no meeting in January 2017. Our next meeting is on **5th February 2017** after the 11.30am in the Fisher Room. Contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

Our Weekly Newsletter We are now sending out the parish newsletter by email. If you have not given us your email details then please subscribe by following this link <http://eepurl.com/coXHxD>.

Mass with Anointing of the Sick in Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 11th February 2017 at 2.00pm The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests. If you or the person you are accompanying will be attending in a wheelchair please contact Claudia on 020 8429 5681 by Friday, 27th January 2017. See poster in the porch.

Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) Crib Appeal 2016 With your support CCS is helping more children & families than ever before to break free from the poverty trap. 42% of children in the Diocese live in Poverty this Christmas – that's over 700,000 children. Please place your donation in the crib basket or see poster in porch for info. Many thanks for your support.

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.

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch Please sign up if you would like to come. It is a great chance to get together over a good meal and to meet some of our young people who will be delighted to help out on that day. On **Sunday, 29th January 2017 at 12.30pm** in the Parish Hall. All replies to be returned to the presbytery by Sunday, 15th January.

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

ADDRESS.....

Please state clearly if you require transport.

TRANSPORT REQUIRED YES/NO