



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
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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)

3rd December 2017 ~ First Sunday of Advent Year B

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

In this life, we will never be free from temptation – even Jesus was tempted by the devil. But we can be free from the slavery of sin. If we treasure the gift of the Holy Spirit every temptation can become an opportunity to grow in holiness rather than an opportunity to sin. Indeed, if we prayed every time we were tempted, we'd probably do a lot of praying.

On the other hand, if we should become preoccupied with worldly ambitions, then we might not notice the fact that the devil is tempting us. Self satisfaction rather than self sacrifice becomes our aim. By the time we realize what is happening, if at all, it is too late – we no longer want to ask Our Lord for help because the prospect of satisfying my own desires becomes far more attractive than the prospect of persevering in holiness.

This is why it is so important to stay alert. In his first letter, St Peter warns us to '*Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.*' In our more sober moments, we realize that nothing the devil promises us is going to make us happy. Only God can make us happy. Yet this is something we can so easily forget.



Therefore, now is the time to pay heed to Jesus's words, to be watchful and alert. Now is the time to develop that prayerful disposition in our lives, so that when temptation comes, which it surely will, we will call on the Lord with all our hearts, confident that He will come to our aid. For He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He suffered so much for us so that we could be free from the slavery of sin. That is how much He loves us and is ready to help us. May this Advent be a time of spiritual growth as we await the glorious return of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 2nd December 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 3rd – 1st **SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

08.30 Aunty Freda Morgan RIP

10.00 Barker Family Intentions

11.30 Pat Woodger RIP

Monday 4th – Advent feria

09.30 Special Intentions

Tuesday 5th – Advent feria

09.30 Fr John Elliott RIP

Wednesday 6th – Advent feria

19.00 Private Intention

Thursday 7th – St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

09.30 Ratnayake Family

Friday 8th – **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patron of the Diocese** (*No Friday abstinence*)

09.30 Johann & Barbara Handler (Anniv)

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, Fr John Leahy.

Pray Also For Barbara Handler, John Barnes, Barbara Buczek, Beryl Everitt, Mary Rodrigues, Rita Loughlin, James Monaghan, Patrick Bowles, Winifred Scally, Luke Lambe, Theresa Tilbury, Paddy Ryan and Al Matsumura whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Charlie Evans who is being baptised in our church this weekend.

Advent Penitential Service at St. John Fisher On Monday, 18th December 2017 at 8.00pm.

Westminster Year Book 2018 If you would like a copy at £5.00 each please collect one from the foyer of the sacristy either before or after Mass.

Greetings card campaign At the Christmas card stall next weekend there will be cards to sign for people on the Acat (Action by Christians against Torture) list of prisoners of conscience & human rights campaigners. 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. Please send a message of support this Advent.

CAFOD Christmas cards On sale in the porch after all masses. This weekend Fairtrade food, chocolates & sweets are also on sale.

St John Fisher Catholic Diaries 2018 Now available in the Church porch. Cost £1. Please put money in basket provided or in 'Papers' box at the back of the Church.

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

Eucharistic Ministers & Readers Rotas Please collect your new rotas for 16th Dec 2017 to 21st Jan 2018 from the relevant pigeonhole in the Church porch.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 7th December at 8pm in the Social Club.

SJF Ladies Club – Film Night 'Don Camillo in Moscow' On Wednesday, 6th December after 7pm Mass in the Fisher Room. £1 towards refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Knitting Group Next meeting on Friday, 8th December at 2pm in the Fisher Room.

SJF Ladies/Knitting Group Meeting On Friday, 15th December at 2pm in the Fisher Room with mulled wine & panettone.

YOUR CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING takes place after 10am & 11.30am Mass on Sunday, 10th December in the Parish Hall Only a week to go when we look forward to welcoming you all for coffee, elevenses, brunch/lunch. As quite a few people told us last year that they had had their lunch when they were leaving, and didn't need to bother when they got home, we have included soup & jacket potatoes, with toppings, in our menu this year. We hope there will be something for everyone and that you will set aside time to support the event and meet up with your fellow parishioners. The raffle prizes this year are 2 Christmas Hampers, a beautiful home-made Christmas Cake and wines, so please buy a ticket for £1 which will be sold in the porch after all masses next weekend, even if you can't come to the event, and make sure you give us your name and telephone number as the raffle prizes will be drawn around 1.30pm at the end of the morning. Many thanks.

Harrow Citizens Meeting On 13th December is the **Delegates Assembly**. It will take place at **7-8.45pm, Mosaic Synagogue, 39 Besborough Rd, HA1 3BS** - it would be really wonderful if at least 10 people could attend this meeting;

If you would be interested in finding out more about Citizens or coming along to any of the meetings please let Fr Shaun know shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk.

Parish Women's Group Our Christmas meeting will be a party games evening on Thursday, 14th December at 8.00pm in the small hall. Please arrive promptly and bring some festive food or drink to share. PWG is open to all women in the parish. Cost £1.

Support Catholic Schools Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? We need you to make your voice heard.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School Headteacher Vacancy – starting September 2018, closing date 4th January 2018. Application pack available from www.stjohnfisherschool.co.uk under community/vacancies. Please see poster in the Church porch.

Message from Fr Graham Stokes

You now know that Fr. Shaun and myself will be 'swapping' parishes in January between the parish of St John Fisher and the home of St Thomas More here in Chelsea; quite a connection!

It is not as simple as that, as North Harrow will be my first appointment as a Parish Priest; I have served as an Assistant Priest over the last six and a half years in Chiswick, Enfield and Chelsea following a career in the civil service. I have been told that there is no better parish than St John Fisher in which to take up this new challenge!

I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know both the parish and North Harrow as we journey together as disciples of Jesus Christ within His Church. Change is always challenging but also brings with it new opportunities and encounters. I am sure that God gives each of us the graces to do what He asks of us and I pray that for myself over the months and years to come; I would be humbled if you would join me in that prayer.

I hope and pray that you may all have a very blessed and joyful Advent and Christmas and look forward to meeting you in the first week of January.

Fr Graham