



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)

10th December 2017 ~ Second 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...

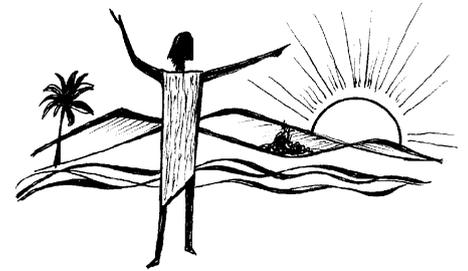
To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
To Gather the Community and Tell the Story
To Sing and Make Music to the Lord
To Break the Bread and Share the Cup

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

Our understanding of the wilderness tends to be either romantic: influenced perhaps by the stories of travellers across the middle eastern deserts such as Lawrence of Arabia; or magical – we see the desert as an other-worldly place where strange things might happen like in F. Herbert's *Dune*. Or, lastly, heroic, that is to say, we see the wilderness as a place where man is alone and faces the hostile world alone. The wilderness is a place that tests what we are really made of, an obstacle course that either makes you or breaks you.

I am not quite sure what kind of wilderness John the Baptist frequented, for it is he who announced the presence of Christ among the people. We do not know whether there were people there or not. But we are there listening to the cry of the



Baptist and in so doing we are asked to consider the wilderness itself as a place where we meet God. Whichever wilderness you face, whether with people around you or without, the Lord proclaims, through the voice of the Baptist, his glorious entry into our world. The Lord is present in the wilderness which is a place of meeting with the God, not a place designed to crush you.

Therefore, we have to engage with whatever wilderness moment dominates our life. We cannot view our challenges from afar. We must not just watch them, as if from the outside, as in a theatre. "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out?" If you went out to contemplate your strengths or to wallow in your weaknesses, remember that this is not the main point of the wilderness. What is at the heart of it is that you are in fact not alone, whether weak or strong – the Lord is with you. You go out into the wilderness then so that he may enter in and meet with you. The Key of David, Root of Jesse, Emmanuel – our Rising Sun – has already illumined the darkness and the loneliness of all wildernesses, including that of the human heart.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 9th December 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 10th – 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.30 Al Matsumura RIP & Keiko Matsumura RIP

10.00 Luke Lambe (5th Anniv)

11.30 June Collins RIP

Monday 11th – Advent feria

09.30 Peter Flanagan (Anniv)

Tuesday 12th – Advent feria

09.30 D'Abbrera Family

Wednesday 13th – Advent feria

19.00 **No Mass**

Thursday 14th – St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

09.30 Kåre Bjørnerud (Anniv)

Friday 15th – Advent feria

09.30 Horst Nekut 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, Mary McBride, Leo Mascrenhas, Cliff Perry.

Pray Also For Luke Lambe, Peter Flanagan, Kåre Bjørnerud, Anthony Buhagiar, Edmund St. Clare-Burke, Henryk Kosminski, Cynthia Smith, Mario Perdoni, Josephine Stevenson, Deborah Armstrong, Kathleen McDonnell, Anthony Mills, Inge Tichy, Stanislaus Bannis, Theresa Fallon, Josie Tobin, Rosita Wakelin, Peter Gould, Jeanette Gething and Virginia Cabral Francisco whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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

Christmas Offering This week we will give out the Christmas offertory envelope, so please do take one as you enter the church. This is your Christmas gift to Fr Shaun. It helps to support him in his ministry. The envelopes will be collected in over the Masses that are celebrated during the Christmas festivities. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity at this time.

Harrow Citizens Meeting On 13th December is the **Delegates Assembly** taking 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.

Theology on Tap will continue in the New Year. We will meet on Wednesday, 24th January 2018 at 7.30pm in the parish bar. Our subject is the Theology of the Laity. What does the term 'Laity' mean; is there a specific mission for the Laity in the Church and how can Christ's faithful be empowered to fulfil such a mission?

The Pylon Winter Edition is now available to view on our website at <https://stjohnfisheronline.org.uk/st-john-fisher-the-pylon-magazine/>.

Christmas Posters Please collect your poster from the porch.

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.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses will take place on Saturday, 23rd December at 6.00pm and Sunday, 24th December at 10.00am. These will be said masses.



Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve 24th December

5.00pm Family Mass

10.30pm Lessons and Carols followed by Mass

Christmas Day 25th December

08.30am Mass

10.00am Children's Mass

11.30am Mass

St Stephen's Day 26th December

11.00am Mass

Wednesday, 27th December

No Mass

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



Christmas Coffee Morning after 10am & 11.30am Mass on Sunday, 10th December in the Parish Hall Join us for coffee, elevenses, soup & jacket potatoes. Raffle prizes : 2 Christmas Hampers, a home-made Christmas Cake & wines - please buy a ticket for £1 sold in the porch after all masses, and make sure you give us your name & telephone number. The draw will take place around 1.30pm. There will also be a **craft stall in the porch after 6pm mass on Saturday and in the Church hall on Sunday** selling beautiful knitted garments & handmade goods in aid of Bakhita House.

CAFOD Christmas cards, some Fairtrade chocolate & sweets are on sale after all masses this weekend in the porch & coffee morning. **Today & 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, information on prisoners & address labels are provided so please write a message & give the card back to be posted. Postage costs over £1 per card so donations for stamps are welcome.

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

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School Headteacher Vacancy – starting Sep 2018, closing date 4th Jan 2018. Application pack at www.stjohnfisherschool.co.uk under community/vacancies.

Senior Parishioners 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, 28th January 2018 at 12.30pm** in the Parish Hall. RSVP to the presbytery by Sunday, 14th January.

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

ADDRESS.....

.....
Please state clearly if you require transport.
TRANSPORT REQUIRED YES/NO