



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531
www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Stokes, 020 8429 5684, grahamstokes@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)

18th February 2018 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent

THIS WEEK'S LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

week beginning Sat 17th February 2018

17th Sat	(Vigil of Sunday)
6.00pm	People of the Parish
18th Sun	1st SUNDAY OF LENT
8.30am	Winnie Moore RIP
10.00am	Con Shanahan RIP Anniv <i>(with Children's Liturgy)</i>
11.30am	Eileen Steinitz RIP Anniv
19th Mon	Lent Feria
9.30am	Cliff Perry RIP
20th Tue	Lent Feria
9.30am	Donal Ryan RIP Anniv
21st Wed	Lent Feria – no mass
22nd Thu	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER
9.30am	Norah Hurley RIP
23rd Fri	Lent feria
9.30am	Brigid Kelly RIP <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
7.00pm	Julian Stanislaus RIP <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday in Lent 8:15am – 9:15am (not 27th Feb)

Saturday 5.15pm - 5.45pm
and by appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday in Lent 8:15am – 9:15am

First Friday 10am - 11am (concluding with Benediction)

Baptisms

First Saturday at Noon

Next Sunday's Readings:

Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Romans 8:31b-34;
Mark 9:2-10

THE HARDER THINGS TO MEASURE

As we begin the Season of Lent we are encouraged through our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to strip away the things in life that matter least and to focus on what matters most, our relationship with God. Part of the challenge comes from it being so much easier to change things that are easy to measure. For example it's straightforward to work out whether you've had more sleep, done more exercise or eaten less chocolate but whether your relationship with Jesus has deepened during Lent.....surely that's a much harder thing to measure!?

Last Sunday when Fr Shaun came back for his farewell mass I thought about how we all find it easier to grasp onto the things that are easier to measure. When I first visited North Harrow my questions were about the state of the house, the works on the church, the parish centre, the finances and the catechetical support; questions Fr Shaun could answer. Yet the overwhelming impact on the daily life of a priest comes from the relationships with and amongst the parish community; that is harder to explain and describe as it has to be lived out. After six weeks I am pleased to say that I have been very encouraged by these relationships here at St John Fisher. Perhaps there is a lesson in this for all of our spiritual lives? We will tell whether this Lenten journey we are beginning has brought us closer to God, not by measuring what we take on or give up but by what we experience in our relationship with God and how that may change this Lent.

Just to remind you that this Monday we will be having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before the morning mass and then an opportunity for Confession at the same time on Tuesday morning. There is no longer mass here on Wednesdays but during Lent there will be mass followed by Stations of the Cross on Friday evening as well as Friday morning.

CAFOD
just one world

**'With God on our side who can be
against us'**

(Romans 8:31)

This coming Friday is also CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day. We are all encouraged to give up a meal and give generously to help some of the poorest people in the world. And this Lent, that giving can make double the impact, as every £1 you give will be matched with another £1 by the UK Government!

Every blessing for Lent

Fr Graham

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, Anusha Sarvananthan, Sr Eileen Brosnan, Sheila Casey, Irene Mariner, Declan Dillon.

Pray Also For Con Shanahan, Eileen Steinitz, Donal Ryan, Winifred Roach, John Foley, Pat Ryan, Gabriel Dias, Lil Cawley, Joan Chan, Delia Burke, Francis Roberts, Thomas Martin, Margaret Caden, James "Seamus" Browne, Joe Reilly, Aristides Cordoba, Kitty Tully, John Noble, Patrick Kilcoyne, Leon St Hill, Michael Anderson and Nanette Burke whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Stations of the Cross Will take place every Friday morning and evening during Lent after Mass. Fr. Graham will lead the Stations at the 7pm Mass. As is the custom we would invite other parishioners to lead the morning Stations during Lent, we have lots of different versions of the Stations which are available from the Sacristy. Please would you let Claudia in the Parish Office know if you are able to help, claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk.

Lenten Reconciliation Service with individual confession and visiting priests will take place on Monday, 19th March at 7pm.

Churches Together in North Harrow – Lent House Groups Starting this week and running for five weeks until the week beginning **March 18th**, the Lent House Groups will be using the York Course for discussion groups called "**On the Third Day**". Sign up to come to one of these groups, even if you cannot manage every one of the five weeks, to refresh and encourage in the weeks leading up to Easter. Forms are available from the wall rack by the notice board in the porch. Please preferably email the details to Marian marian@stjulians.plus.com or phone 8427 2870.

Altar Servers We are recruiting new altar servers for all masses. Any children who have received their First Holy Communion are welcome to give their name to Kay after mass and then be invited to attend the training session. Closing date for applications is Sunday, 25th February.

'Reframe' – a series of talks by Catholic Voices, a group who seek to help us learn how to share the genius of the Gospel even in the midst of controversy. A great opportunity to hear about important topics and offering practical insight into misunderstood issues. Weekly Thursday evening talks in Lent; first talk, 'How to defend the faith without raising your voice,' at 7pm on Thursday, 22nd February at Page Centre, Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, 22 Roxborough Park, Harrow, HA1 3BE.

A Day with Mary On Saturday, 24th February 2018 at St George's, Harrow Road, Sudbury. A day of instruction, devotion and intercession. Please see poster on noticeboard in the porch.

Knitting Group We are meeting on Friday, 23rd February at 2pm in the Fisher Room. There are new guests in Bakhita House so we need a lot of scarves, hats & gloves plus it's a very social afternoon.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3pm The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact Claudia at claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk / 8429 5681 by **Friday, 9th March 2018** with: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address & email (or telephone number, if no email).

Wednesday Mass Fr Graham takes Wednesday as his free day so there is no longer a Wednesday mass in our parish. Wednesday masses are available at

- 7.30am and 10am at St Joseph's, Wealdstone;
- 9.30am at Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, Harrow and St Thomas More, Eastcote;
- 10am at St Gregory the Great, South Ruislip;
- 12.30pm in the Chapel at Northwick Park Hospital

If you have a pre-booked mass intention, please contact the parish office and Claudia will arrange for the mass to be said at another time including the *additional* Lenten Friday evening 7pm mass. Fr Graham appreciates that this change to our mass schedule may disrupt some people's regular mass attendance but hopes that you will appreciate his need to balance commitments in the parish with his own personal and family life.

Welcome Ministry Rota Please **collect** your new rota from the relevant pigeonhole in the Church porch. We need more volunteers so if you are interested or no longer want to be on the rota, please contact Sue Moriarty at suemoriarty@sky.com.

Fairtrade stall, the Easter Egg with a message & CAFOD trade campaign Fairtrade food is on sale after all masses this weekend. There will be some 'Real' Easter Eggs on sale (Fairtrade chocolate & a booklet telling the story of Easter) at £3.90 each. Email siftraidcraft@gmail.com to place an order. Come to the stall to sign a card, produced by CAFOD and other aid agencies, asking MPs to ensure that the needs of poorer countries are not forgotten in Brexit trade negotiations.

World Meeting of Families – Ireland Dublin, Ireland has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 21st to 26th August 2018, guided by the theme "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World". For more information and registration for this event, please see poster on the notice board in the porch.

A Call to Young Adults - Your Bishops Want to Hear From You Cardinal Vincent and the auxiliary bishops of the diocese are inviting Catholic young adults, aged 18 to 30, to meet with them to discuss the theme of the next Synod of Bishops - 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment'. In particular, they would like to hear about how you see your place in the world, how faith impacts your life and how the Church can best accompany you as you work out God's plan for your life. The Cardinal is hosting two meetings at Archbishop's House in Victoria and the auxiliary bishops are hosting meetings across the diocese. You are invited to attend one of these meetings. They will involve discussion of the synod theme, an opportunity to question your bishops, and light refreshments. Please do consider making your voice heard and playing your part in the shaping the Church's approach to young people in the future. If you would like to attend, please register at <http://dowym.com/events/> where you can find details of all events.

Porto & Santiago de Compostela 25-31 October 2018 with Pax Travel. Cost £899 or less. Details in porch. Please contact Neil Cocking to register your interest as soon as possible on 07850 790747 so we can assess viability to proceed.

CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day is on Friday, 23rd February. Please take a Fast Day envelope and we will collect your offerings after all our Masses next weekend. If you are a taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation by ticking the Gift Aid box on the envelope so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you.