



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

North Harrow

80 Imperial Close, Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531
harrownorth@rcdow.org.uk 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: *awaiting appointment*, harrownorth@rcdow.org.uk 020 8429 5681 (office hours Mon and Fri 10am-12noon)

1st December 2019 ~ First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Week beginning Saturday 30th November 2019

30th Sat	<i>ST ANDREW, Apostle</i>
9.30am	James Wallace RIP
	<i>Vigil of Sunday</i>
6.00pm	Siobhan Gallen RIP
1st Sun	<i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>
8.30am	People of the Parish
10.00am	Terry Rough RIP
11.30am	Mike Deely RIP
2nd Mon	<i>Advent Feria</i>
9.30am	Mary Beary RIP
3rd Tue	<i>St Francis Xavier, Priest</i>
9.30am	John Hoolan
4th Wed	<i>St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor</i>
	No Mass
5th Thu	<i>Advent Feria</i>
7.00pm	James Monaghan RIP
6th Fri	<i>St Nicholas, Bishop</i>
9.30am	John & Thelma Renner RIP
	DAY OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
7.00pm	special intention
7th Sat	<i>St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor</i>
9.30am	Mary Donnelly RIP
	<i>Vigil of Sunday</i>
6.00pm	People of the Parish

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10am - 10.30am; 5.15pm - 5.45pm
and by appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 8.15 – 9.30am; Saturday 10 - 10.30am
 First Friday 10am - 11am (concluding with Benediction)

Baptisms

First Saturday at Noon

**'Be strong and let your heart take
 courage, all you who wait for the Lord'**

Psalm 30:24

THE YEAR OF THE WORD BEGINS



2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600th anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the bishops of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'.

Throughout 2020 we will focus on celebrating, living and sharing God's word. To start this week we are making available to everyone **'The Wednesday Word.'** Parents will be aware of the school version of this that helps us reflect and respond on the next Sunday's mass readings. The parish version of 'The Wednesday Word' will be distributed electronically with the newsletter and be made available on the coloured sheets in the Church porch for you to take home and use in preparation for the following Sunday. You can read it online at <http://www.wednesdayword.org> and clicking on 'parish'

Why not sign up for a time on this Friday's **DAY OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** to come to the Church and reflect on the Word of God in the presence of Christ Himself?

Have a blessed week

Fr Graham



In this **Year of The Word** why not try to read next Sunday's Readings?
 Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;
 Matthew 3:1-12

REGULAR NOTICES

Please keep the sick in your prayers. A list of sick parishioners is displayed on the noticeboard at the back of the Church.

If you or a sick relative could benefit from a visit from the parish **St Vincent de Paul Society** please contact the parish office.

If you would like a visit from the priest and/or to regularly receive **Holy Communion**, please contact the parish office.

Pray also for, Catherine Barker, Terry Rough, Betty Williams, Mary McBride, John Barnes, Barbara Buczek, Beryl Everitt, Mary Rodrigues, Rita Loughlin, James Monaghan, Michael Fitzgerald, John Renner, Patrick Bowles, Winifred Scally, Luke Lambe, Theresa Tilbury and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

WELCOME to **Harrow Catenians** who are holding a membership presentation after all Masses this weekend.

WELCOME to **Fr Johnpromise** who joins us to celebrate the 11.30am Mass followed by a 'bring and share' lunch in the parish centre to which everyone is warmly invited.

Parish Office – We are pleased to welcome our new parish administrator, Nuala Rodger, who will be starting this week in the parish office. We will publish the new office hours once Nuala has begun to settle into her new role. There's a lot to get familiar with but we wish Nuala every success!

Change of mass time – This **Thursday, 5th December** the parish mass will be at **7pm, not 12.30pm**, as Fr Graham is attending a Clergy Day of Recollection.

ADVENT 2019

Day of Eucharistic Adoration: To begin the Church's year we will have a Day of Eucharistic Adoration this coming **Friday, 6th December**, the first Friday of Advent, starting after the 9.30am Mass and concluding with Benediction at 6.30pm and Mass at 7pm. There is a 'sign-up sheet' on the whiteboard in the church porch to commit to spending some time with the Lord.

Friday evening mass at 7pm throughout Advent

Advent Walk with Me Booklets – These are available at the back of the Church priced £1. Please put your money in 'Catholic Papers' money box in the back wall of the church.

Advent Confessions – Visiting priests will be available for individual confessions **from 7.30pm on Monday 16th December**. During this time the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed to help focus our prayer and reflection. A similar opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered **from 3pm on Sunday 15th December at St Luke's, Pinner**.

Advent Giving Calendar – These were available at the back of the church recently. We are invited each day to donate extra food support locally for those in need through a Foodbank. We will have our Foodbank collection in the New Year so that what you collect this Advent can be put to good use locally.

Future change of mass time - In **January** the Thursday Mass time will change from 12.30pm to 7pm and thus restore a regular weekday evening mass. Mass intentions for the 12.30pm mass will transfer to the new time on the same day.

Operation Elf – Christmas presents for children of prisoners.

Please bring in your presents as soon as possible; PACT will collect the remaining presents this Thursday, 5th December. They should be unwrapped and labelled with your child's name and age.

First Holy Communion – Could parents please see Kay before Saturday evening Mass or after any of the Sunday masses this week concerning dates for First Holy Communion Masses in May.

Westminster Yearbook 2020 – these are now available priced £4.50 from the sacristy before or after mass.

Sick and Retired Priests – the collection this year raised **£1,885**. Thank you for your generosity and support for our sick and retired priests; please keep them in your prayers.

School of Ignatian Prayer – concludes at **7.30pm this Thursday, 5th December** in the Fisher Room.

Churches Together in North Harrow – Advent Service **today, Sunday 1st December**, at 6.30pm at Elmfield, Imperial Drive. Refreshments are served before the service from 6.00pm

Knitting Group The group knits winter wear for the residents of Bakhita House. There is another opportunity this weekend to contribute to their collection of **NEW toiletries and ladies' underwear** for the guests of Bakhita House. The next knitting session is from 2pm this **Friday, 6th December**. There will also be a knitwear stall after masses next weekend.

St John Fisher School Reception: If your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, you can apply for a place in reception class for September 2020 at St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School. Information at www.stjohnfisherschool.co.uk

Catholic Papers – We currently receive a supply of The Tablet, Catholic Universe and Catholic Herald. From January the publishers will no longer supply these on a sale-or-return basis so we must pay for all the copies delivered to the parish whether or not they are sold. Sales are so small that few people should be affected if we discontinue the papers. If you have any comments please contact Fr Graham.

DEANERY & DIOCESAN NOTICES

Harrow Citizens – There is a leaflet on the noticeboard in the church porch that outlines the issues raised at the recent assembly and which will be put to the London Mayoral candidates next year by London Citizens.

Vocations Events 2020: If you are discerning the call to serve God there will be a Vocations retreat on **25th January** at SPEC in Pinner and parish events on **8th March** in Bow or **24th May** in St Albans. For more information please see poster in the church porch.

'The God Who Speaks' Year of the Word 2020

- **Solemn Vespers** for the launch of the Year of the Word will take place this **Sunday, 1st December**, at 3.30pm in Westminster Cathedral. Please see poster in the church porch for more details
- **Journeying with the Bible: Matthew: Overview of the Gospel of Matthew** with the study of some model passages led by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz and Sr Monica Cardona on **Tuesday 3rd December** at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Suggested donation £5 per talk. Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk and see poster in the church porch