

St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, Harrow, HA2 7LW,
020 8868 7531

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrownorth>

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Stokes, grahamstokes@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr. Axcel Soriano, axcelisoriano@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Nuala Rodger, nualarodger@rcdow.org.uk (office hours Mon-Thu 9.30am-1pm)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Gerald O'Keefe harrownorthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Catechist: Jan Bennett, harrownorthcat@rcdow.org.uk (office hours Mon, Tue, Thu 10am-3pm)



3rd December 2023 – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 10.00am Mass and highlighted Masses livestreamed on 'St John Fisher North Harrow' YouTube channel

You may appear on camera if you are seated in the front four pews and/or when you come to receive Holy Communion.

2nd Sat 10.00am	Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday Conceição
6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday People of the Parish
3rd Sun 8:30am	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT John & Thelma Renner RIP
10.00am	Mary Regina McBride RIP/6 th Anniv
11.30am	Joe O'Regan RIP/Anniv
4th Mon 10.00am	St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor Mary & George Martin RIP/Anniv
5th Tue 10.00am	Advent feria Maureen Rossiter
6th Wed 10.00am	St Nicholas, Bishop Terry Johnston RIP
7th Thu 7.00pm	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor Ramesh Philip Arulanantham RIP, Petronila Arulanantham RIP & Helen Joseph Saverimuttu RIP
8th Fri 10.00am	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Mrs Theresa Saverimuttu RIP
9th Sat 10.00am	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin Ana Francisca Teixeira RIP
6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday Mary & Tony Mills RIP/Anniv, Michael Barrett RIP/Anniv
10th Sun 8:30am	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT People of the Parish
10.00am	Luke Lambe RIP/1 st Anniv
11.30am	James Monaghan RIP/9 th Anniv with Baptism of Danial Tan

'THE LORD'S HIDDEN COMING'

"We know that the coming of the Lord is threefold: the third coming is between the other two and it is not visible in the way they are. At his first coming the Lord was seen on earth and lived among men, who saw him and hated him. At his last coming All flesh shall see the salvation of our God, and They shall look on him whom they have pierced. In the middle, the hidden coming, only the chosen see him, and they see him within themselves; and so, their souls are saved. The first coming was in flesh and weakness, the middle coming is in spirit and power, and the final coming will be in glory and majesty." **St Bernard of Clairvaux.**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the saints always have a deeper insight to help enter in whatever situation you and I may find ourselves in, just like the psalms that we find in the bible as well, that describe every human emotion and thought have the same effect which help us reflect. We are now entering into the time of Advents. The beginning of the Church's liturgical year which point to us that Christ will come again in the flesh and we will all see him. Maybe this time you and I live it like another thing that is done routinely every year. I.e. Christmas carols, shopping, mulled wine, big coats, things on sale, presents, Christmas cards and many more. We live this time as consumers of a holiday which ends on the same day it starts in a mentality of a society that moves on to the next thing without surprise. **(In fact Christmas lasts a week after the day and ends on Epiphany.)**

St Bernard says in this sermon that Christ came in the flesh to dwell with us, to come into our reality. That he will come again and that you and I are called to be ready, his judgment will consist to give us according to our deeds, not our good works which is where we get confused but our deeds, the main deed is 'have we loved him, when we were loving and serving the other and forgiving our enemies,' which can be even those close to us?

And finally, the hidden coming which is now in this time of Advent. Which is summed up by the words of Christ when he says: **If anyone loves me, he will keep my words, and the Father will love him, and we shall come to him. (John 14:23)**

Let us be ready to meet the Lord this advent. Amen.

With Every blessing,

Fr Axcel

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday: 10.30am - 11.30am, 5.15 - 5.45 pm and by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Mondays and Fridays 9am-9.50am

Saturdays, First Friday: after Mass - 11.30am (with Benediction on First Friday and First Saturday of the month)

Baptisms, Funerals & Weddings – by appointment

Sacrament of the Sick – please speak to a priest or contact the parish office leaving a message if there is no reply

Reflect on upcoming Sunday's Readings with the help of

www.wednesdayword.org

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11, Psalm 84,

2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

REGULAR NOTICES

If you or a sick relative could benefit from a visit from the parish **St Vincent de Paul Society**, please contact the parish office or SVP direct on **07935 776298**.

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

Pray also for – John Barnes, Barbara Buczek, Beryl Everitt, Mary Rodrigues, Rita Loughlin, James Monaghan, Michael Fitzgerald, John Renner, Patrick Bowles, Winifred Scally, Luke Lambe, Theresa Tilbury, Barbara Handler, Paddy Ryan, Yoshiyuki “Ali” Matsumura and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

Christmas hamper raffle tickets will be on sale from this weekend after Sunday masses costing 50p per ticket or £2 for 5 (cash only). There will be lots of prizes, thanks to your generous donations of food & drink. The draw will take place after the Parish Christmas Carol Service on Sunday **17th December**.

Newly Confirmed – Bake Sale - As part of their social action project our young people, who were confirmed last weekend by Bishop John Sherrington, are running a bake sale after Mass this **Sunday 3rd December** to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. The Trust offers unique care and support, designed for and with young people. They fund specialised units in the NHS, so young people have dedicated staff and facilities to support them throughout treatment. Further information can be found at www.teenagecancertrust.org.uk. Our young people are busy baking cakes and treats which will be available between the Masses on Sunday morning. Please support this generously.

The **Funeral Mass of Marian Cunningham RIP** will take place on **Wednesday 13th December at 11.15am** followed by committal at St Marys Cemetery, Harrow Road, Kensal Green. We keep Marian's family and friends in our prayers at this time. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Advent 'My Day by Day' booklets – Limited numbers of these booklets in adult and junior form are available in the church narthex at £1 each; they contain the Mass readings of Advent together with short reflections to accompany you spiritually in your time of preparation. Please put money in 'papers' wall safe or use the 'Advent booklets' tab on the contactless device.

Advent Recollection Morning and Advent Reconciliation

Fr Jonathan Goodall, parish priest of Stanmore, will be offering us a morning of recollection on **Saturday 16th December** under the theme '**A new heaven and a new earth**' beginning with Mass at 10am and including an opportunity for Confessions, including with other visiting priests, from 12noon. Fr Jonathan was previously a Bishop in the Church of England and has served as a chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. More details will follow on a poster in the narthex.

Parish Christmas Carol Service and Celebration - At 3pm on Sunday, 17th December. Please do come along and invite a friend. We will serve mulled wine and mince pies afterwards in the parish hall when the Christmas hamper raffle will also be drawn. Volunteers are needed to help with the refreshments; please contact the parish office if you can help.

DATES FOR DIARY

Sat 2nd/Sun 3 rd Dec	Bake Sale (Newly Confirmed) Harrow Food Bank Collection
Saturday 16 th Dec	10am Morning of Recollection 12noon Advent Confessions
Sunday 17 th Dec	3pm Christmas Carol Service & Christmas hamper raffle draw

Harrow Food Bank this Weekend 2nd & 3rd December The foodbank would like Carrier bags (bags for life) instant mash potato (packet); tinned corned beef; tinned meat pies (e.g., Fray Bentos); tinned chicken meals; long life fruit juice; coffee (small and large jars); tinned fruit; peanut butter; crisps. Thank you for last months generosity which passed 100 KG.

Stamps for St. Luke's Hospice- Please help support our local hospice by keeping your used stamps; and then either, giving them directly to Barbara Towell or placing them in the container on the table in the narthex. These will be collected and taken to the hospice shop. A huge amount of money is made for St. Luke's from these. So thank you in advance.

Parish Women's Social Group. Book Club Evening. **March 21st 2024.** Advanced notice! The chosen novel to read for this evening is: 'Mad Honey' by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. More details about the evening nearer the time. In the meantime, Happy reading!

CAFOD Harvest Collection raised £784.42 to support CAFOD's essential work across the globe. Many thanks

OTHER NOTICES

Advent Morning of Recollection - St Luke's, Pinner; Canon John O'Leary, Rector of Allen Hall Seminary, will give this year's Advent Morning of Recollection at St Luke's, Pinner on **Saturday 2nd December**. Talks on the theme of 'Coming to Live in Hope' begin at 10:30 am in the church, to conclude at 12:30 pm. Coffee, tea and cake will be served in the break

'Vinnie Packs' to help the homeless - The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of thermal socks, face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 46088237**. Thank you.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal - You can donate to CAFOD's Israeli/Palestinian Crisis Appeal at www.cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Thank you.

COP28 - Please take a few moments to add your name to an email to your MP to protect our planet. Pope Francis is warning we are running out of time to tackle climate change and he is calling on leaders at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai to commit to speed up the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Please share Pope Francis' COP28 message with your MP – just go to www.cafod.org.uk/cop28

OTHER NOTICES (online only)

Caritas Newsletter – The latest newsletter from Caritas Westminster is on the noticeboard in the church narthex for helpful advice and information on help with the cost of living and the church's social outreach.

Advent Summit - This Advent all young people in the diocese are invited to join Westminster Youth Ministry on **Saturday 2nd December** from 2pm to 5pm. This afternoon of prayer and adoration will be themed around 'the dwelling place' with speakers including Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Emmanuelle McFarlane-Barrow. Confessions will be available throughout. The event will take place at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Queensway. For more information email youth@rcdow.org.uk You can sign up at <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/advent-summit-2/>

Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters on **Sunday 3rd December** in Kensington. Young people are invited for a day retreat to prepare spiritually for Christmas, with reflections, prayer, adoration, and confessions. Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock, London W8 4BB. Timings: Mass at 12.15pm, Lunch at 1pm, Retreat from 2pm-5.30pm. Donations. Register: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

'Witness to Hope' – A series of online talks by Fr John Deehan focusing on the **Prayers and Gospels of the Christmas Masses.**

- **7th December:** The Dawn Mass
- **14th December:** The Day Mass

The talks are open to all and a donation of £5 is requested per talk. Further details on enquiry. Please register with Warren Brown catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

Friends of Westminster Cathedral - Westminster Cathedral the mother Church of our diocese has improved the lighting of its main sanctuary. The previous aged and inefficient system had to be replaced as spare parts were no longer available. The improved lighting is of great benefit on major occasions particularly if they are being broadcast or live streamed. The improvements are being funded by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. They are asking for our help by supporting their Big Give Campaign with online donations. For donations made from 12.00 noon on Tuesday 28th November and before 12.00 noon on Tuesday 5th December every £1 given is worth £2 with matched funding and £2.25 if you can tick the Gift Aid box. The link to the donation site is <https://bit.ly/FriendsBG23>

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection at Sacred Heart RC Church New Priory, Quex Road, Kilburn London NW6 4PS on **Sunday 10 December** from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm led by the Marian Fathers.