

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, axcelSORIANO@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)

10th December 2023 – 2nd 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.

9th Sat 10.00am	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin Ana Francisca Texeira RIP with GIFT Families
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/1st Anniv
11.30am	James Monaghan RIP/9 th Anniv with Baptism of Daniel Tan
11th Mon 10.00am	St Damasus I, Pope Lawrence & Catherine Rodrigues & Curcino Rodrigues RIPs
12th Tue 10.00am	Our Lady of Guadalupe Bella Ball RIP
13th Wed 10.00am	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr Paddy McCarthy RIP/Anniv
11.15am	Requiem Mass Marian Cunningham RIP
14th Thu 7.00pm	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor Michael Lawlor RIP
15th Fri 10.00am	Advent feria Tony Dybal RIP/Anniv
16th Sat 10.00am	Advent feria Sr Margaret Advent Recollection Morning and Advent Reconciliation with Fr Johnathan Goodall
6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday Horst Nekut RIP/85 th Birthday Remembrance
17th Sun 8:30am	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Virginia Dellamura RIP
10.00am	People of the Parish
11.30am	Peter Flanagan RIP/Anniv

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday and Friday 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

MINISTRY OF ACOLYTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A greeting for the coming of

Christmas. While

we are awaiting the

birth of Jesus, may I

share with you a

special blessing

which I am going to

receive on Sunday

10th December.

Thanks be given to

God that I will be

granted the Acolyte

Ministry by Auxiliary

Bishop Rev. Paul

McAleenan at the church of St Mary and St Michael,

Commercial Road under the Diocese of Westminster.

An acolyte is called to serve at the altar, to administer Holy Communion in church, taking it to the elderly and the sick who may not be able to attend the mass. It reminds me that the duty of a Deacon, who is a servant of our Lord, is to help the poor and the sick. Indeed, both acolyte and preaching are the essential jobs for a Deacon.

I am grateful for the practical training received at St John Fisher Church, the enlightenment from Fr. Graham and Fr. Axcel and your encouragement. "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". Thank you for your invitation to me to respond to your calling.

Please pray for me so that I may be put on the right track for the ordination as a Permanent Deacon in the coming year.

Every blessing.

James, Deacon-in-training



Reflect on upcoming Sunday's Readings with the help of

www.wednesdayword.org

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, Psalm Luke 1:46-50, 53-54,

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

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**.

Recently deceased – William Donovan, Kathleen Breen

Pray also for – Anthony Buhagiar, Edmund St Clare-Burke, Henryk Kosminski, Cynthia Smith, Mario Perdoni, Josephine Stevenson, Deborah Armstrong, Hilda Desouza, Kathleen McDonnell, Anthony Mills, Inge Tichy, Stanislaus Bannis, Theresa Fallon, Virginia Cabral Francisco Neurius Jean-Jacques, Rosita Wakelin, Peter Gould, Jeanette Gething, Kåre Bjørnerud, Josie Tobin, and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

Advent and Christmas Services leaflet – There are plenty of these leaflets available at the back of the church. Please take one for yourself and another one, or more, to give to people you know and invite them to join us over the Christmas season.

Parish Office – The Parish office will be closed **Monday 11th** and **Tuesday 12th December**. Urgent matters will still be dealt with but if you could put off non-urgent requests that would be appreciated.

Blessing of cribs – We invite you all to bring your cribs and/or crib figures to Mass next weekend, **16th & 17th December** for a special blessing.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - This Sunday, 10th December. Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated during the 10:00 Mass. Children between the ages of 4 and 7 years will be invited to come to the Fisher Room for their own liturgy. The Mass will be celebrated as a family Mass with the youth music group supporting the singing.

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 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 on poster in the narthex and flvrs.

Christmas hamper raffle tickets will be on sale 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**.

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 NW10 5NU. We keep Marian's family and friends in our prayers at this time May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Operation Elf - A big thank you for your generosity 74 gifts were donated for the children of prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs.

Saturday 16 th Dec	10am Morning of Recollection 12noon Advent Confessions
Sunday 17 th Dec	3pm Christmas Carol Service & Christmas hamper raffle draw

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 sign up on the lists on the noticeboard in the narthex if you can help.

Christmas flowers – There will be a collection at the end of Masses this weekend to support the flowers that make our church look so beautiful at Christmas. They are sourced from a wholesaler to achieve best value and a small team of volunteers give freely of their time making the displays.

Christmas offering - Envelopes are available in the church porch for your Christmas offering towards the clergy. This is paid into the parish bank account and supports the stipend that the diocese pays our priests. If you contribute by standing order this does not include a Christmas offering. There is an option on the contactless device to contribute to the Christmas offering. Thank you for your generosity

Churches Together in North Harrow Carols on the Green - Starting at 5pm **Wednesday 20th December** outside St Alban's Church, The Ridgeway. Enjoy the festive season with songs, refreshments and a chance to pet our visiting donkeys.

Harrow Food Bank – Thank you for your donations which amounted to 76.15kg which are very much appreciated.

Primary school applications – A reminder that the closing date for primary applications is **15th January**.



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Discovering and Leading Together with Christ



Blessed Holy Family
Catholic Primary School



Join our Outstanding
Catholic Primary School

School tours are available on selected Thursdays at
9.30am. Please contact the school office for more
details.

Email: office@stjohnfisher.harrow.sch.uk
Telephone: 020 8494 2961



OTHER NOTICES (online only)

A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral - Tickets are on sale for the annual Christmas concerts which celebrate Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on **19th and 20th December at 7.30pm**. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or go to www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in 'Westminster Cathedral' when prompted.

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.

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!

'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

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.

Retrouvaille – Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidentially for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk