

St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church



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<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)



17th December 2023 – 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

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.

16th Sat 10.00am	Advent feria Sr Margaret <i>Advent Recollection Morning with Fr Johnathan Goodall and Advent Reconciliation</i> <i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i> Horst Nekut RIP/85 th Birthday Remembrance
17th Sun 8:30am 10.00am 11.30am 3.00pm	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Virginia Dellamura RIP People of the Parish Peter Flanagan & Bridie Flanagan RIP/Anniv Christmas Carol Service
18th Mon 10.00am	Advent feria Johann Handler RIP/10 th Anniv, Barbara Handler RIP
19th Tue 10.00am	Advent feria Manuel Rodrigues RIP/Anniv
20th Wed 10.00am	Advent feria Nora Riordan RIP
21st Thu 10.00am 7.00pm	Advent feria Funeral Mass of William Donovan RIP Richard Tirrell RIP
22nd Fri 10.00am	Advent feria Speedy Recovery of Christina Herbert
23rd Sat 10.00am	Advent feria John Riordan RIP <i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i> Michael Fitzgerald RIP
24th Sun 8:30am 10.00am 11.30am	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT People of the Parish Mrs Lorraine Breakspear Oscar Soriano <i>Vigil Mass of Christmas</i> Sarah Brandan & James Lynch Mass during the Night - People of the Parish

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

JOYFUL EXPECTATION, LET THE LORD APPEAR IN OUR LIVES

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of Joy, Joy before the coming of the Lord in the Flesh. The



Question is are we joyful over the Lord's coming or are we preoccupied with other things.

A wise man told me a very interesting anecdote about a man who was very important but did not present himself in that way. In fact, he looked like a homeless person in need of care. One day he decided to sit at a park bench and two children saw him and said to their mother can we give him anything, their mother had done the shopping that day and she was on her own with the two children. She gave the man a loaf of bread and everything she had bought for that weekend. Now this man overheard her situation and how her children were very unselfish. His intention wasn't to do this but he realised that people see someone and assume they're homeless; in fact her situation was harder because even though she wasn't homeless she did not have enough for both her and her children and still decided to give to this man. The man found out where they lived and provided for them for that year.

Now there are 2 things about this story; the man was rich and important but he was not defined by that, he was himself. The other is that people suffer in silence but are also not selfish.

This Sunday we are called to be happy at all times. The Lord Jesus makes this little story make sense, he being God became man, He was rejected, the people that accepted him were outcast or unusual in society, and more often than not poor. Also, the lord Jesus came to our world to nourish and provide for us not physically, although he did, but also for our souls.

Let us live this Sunday in Joy and let us keep that expectation that perhaps with someone or an event in your life Jesus will show us how to be a sign for others. Amen.

Every blessing, Fr Axcel

Reflect on upcoming Sunday's Readings with the help of
www.wednesdayword.org

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14-16, Psalm 88,
Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

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

Recently deceased – Brian Robinson, Fr Terry Murray OMI, Caroline Grogan

Pray also for – Wacław Kowalewicz, Frank Beesley, Virginia Dellamura, James “Jimmy” Campbell, Bridie Haynes, Conor Maguire, Nora Egan, Ying-Eng Kit, Manuel Rodrigues, Brendan Connolly, Christopher Hilton, Peter Flanagan, Geoffrey Cheeseman, James McKenna, Salvatrice Guagliardo, Mary “Maisie” Paricia Browne, Christopher “Christy” McDyre and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

Advent and Christmas Services details – There are plenty of 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. An emailed version is distributed with the emailed newsletter. **Please note that the 5pm Christmas Vigil and 11pm Mass During the Night on 24th December do not fulfil the obligation to attend Mass on 4th Sunday of Advent.**

Blessing of cribs – We invite you all to bring your cribs and/or crib figures to Mass this weekend for a special blessing.

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 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 flyers.

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

Diocese Year book for 2024 is now available at a cost of £5.00. Please ask one of the Parish team if you would like to purchase one. Thank you.

The **Funeral Service of Catherine Breen RIP** will take place at Golders Green Crematorium at 12noon on **Tuesday 19th December**. The **Funeral Mass of William Donovan RIP** will take place on **Thursday 21st December at 10am** followed by committal at Carpenders Park Cemetery. We keep Catherine and William’s family and friends in our prayers at this time; may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Crib and Christmas Tree will be put up in the church after 11.30am Mass this Sunday. Any help is much appreciated!

DATES FOR DIARY

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

This weekend is the last chance to buy Christmas raffle tickets to fund a defibrillator. Tickets will be on sale in the porch after masses and cost 50p or £2 for 5 (cash only). The draw will take place in the hall after the carol service on Sunday.

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.

Christmas flowers – There will be a collection after the 6pm and 10am Masses this weekend to support the flowers that make our church look so beautiful at Christmas. Last weekend there were collections after the 8.30am and 11.30am Masses.

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.

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.

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



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Enriching and Leading Together with Christ



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@stjohnfisherharrow.sch.uk
Telephone: 020 8888 2981



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.

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.

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