

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, axceloriano@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)



4th February 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

3rd Sat 10.00am Saints Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore
Vocation to Religious Life and Consecrated life
Blessing of St Blaise on throats after Mass

6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Tony & Molly Tunney RIP

4th Sun 8:30am Mel Bellamy RIP
10.00am **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
Victor Fontgalland RIP/1st Anniv
11.30am People of the Parish

5th Mon 10.00am Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
Anna & Raymond Ngeh RIP

6th Tue 10.00am Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Ann McGuire Anniv

7th Wed 10.00am Feria
John Monaghan RIP/Anniv

8th Thu 7.00pm Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Thanksgiving of Confirmation Candidates

9th Fri 10.00am feria
Hannah Madden RIP

10th Sat 10.00am Saint Scholastica, Virgin
Burney Goveas, health intention
with GIFT families

6.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
People of the Parish

11th Sun 8:30am **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
Joseph & Elsie Yim
10.00am Emidio Mesquita RIP
11.30am Sarah Gallagher

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

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

This Friday brothers and sisters we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Because of this feast we have kept the crib up. Because this feast reminds us that the Lord wants to have a meeting with us.



In the early Church in fact this feast was known by this name because it is the beginning of Christ meeting with his people and his presentation in the temple after 40 days from the Epiphany. He was presented to the High Priest but he was expected to appear and meet those who have faith, like Simeon and Anna. Many faithful people today long for an encounter with the Lord, but perhaps feel like there isn't an encounter found in the temple. Perhaps the worries and troubles of life do not allow us to meet the Lord in his Word, in the Sacraments, and this feast comes to remind us all that God is nearer than we think.

That many people in our family or friend groups will come to the light of Christ if we first are reminded that we are called to bear the light of faith which we all have received in Baptism.

Let us say like Simeon: *my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.* Luke 2:22-40 or let us rejoice like Anna that Christ is our saviour.

God Bless Fr Axcel

Reflect on upcoming Sunday's Readings with the help of

www.wednesdayword.org

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46 Psalm 31,

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Mark 1:40-45



MARY'S MEALS ARE WITH US THIS WEEKEND FOR THEIR FOREIGN CURRENCY APPEAL & AN UPDATE ON THEIR WORK

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 – Stan Phillips, Tony English, Florence Else, Joseph Navaratnam Henry, Guy Verrier, Emily Jukes, Carpo de Silva, David Lavelle, Martina Mulvaney, Peter Sullivan, Daya Rajakarier, Daisy Rowland, Robert O’Beirne, Neil Browne, Joe Donoghue, Patricia Martin, Melba de Silva, Donald Bayross, Elizabeth Tavener and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

Church heating – After two further visits from the heating engineers the church heating has been repaired! The fault with the parish centre boiler is more significant; an engineer is coming next week to determine whether a repair is feasible and value for money. Meanwhile we are obtaining quotes for a replacement. Thank you for your patience whilst we address these issues. There is a ‘repairs and maintenance’ option on the contactless giving device as well as on the donate section of the website or scan this QR code. Thank you.



Christmas Crib - We will be taking down the crib after the 11.30am Mass this **Sunday 4th February**, following this feast. All help appreciated!

Blessing of throats – This **Saturday, 3rd February**, the individual blessing of St Blaise on throats will take place after 10am Mass before Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Community Building in our Parish - We have launched a vision for our parish aiming to build a stronger community, enable discipleship and carry forward our mission in Christ. Volunteers are needed to help with community-building projects. These could be anything from nature walk, youth ministry, international meal, social event, bible-reading, music, drama to other activities. Please fill out this form if you are interested in leading any projects. <https://bit.ly/48R9pkp>. There is also an opportunity to apply for funding from the National Lottery.

Fire wardens – Our recent health and safety audit highlighted the essential requirement to have **fire wardens identified at each Sunday Mass**. Fr Graham is inviting people to volunteer to do this over the coming weekends; thank you to those of you who have generously agreed to help thus far. It is not an onerous task and involves the application of sensible protocols should a fire break out such as checking that the Fisher Room and toilets are cleared and that nobody is unable to evacuate.

Mary’s Meals wants to collect all your foreign currency and turn it into cash to feed hungry children in the 18 countries it works in. You will find envelopes at the back of church today, please take one when you leave and put all your foreign coins and notes into it as well as any UK coins and notes that are no longer legal tender. Then return your envelope to church next weekend. Thank you for your support.

LENT 2024

Ash Wednesday is on **14th February** this year and despite being St Valentine’s Day remains a day of fasting and abstinence; we abstain from eating meat eat less to help our devotion and remind us of the greatest love in our life, God! **Masses with the distribution of ashes will take place at 10am and 7pm.**

Lent ‘My Day by Day’ Adult and Junior booklet are available at the back of the church at £1 each; they contain the Mass readings of Lent with reflections to aid your journey through this season. Please put money in ‘papers’ wall safe, basket or use the ‘Lent booklets’ tab on the contactless device.

Morning of Recollection – Rev Dr F Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, the Vice Rector and Dean of Studies at Allen Hall Seminary will be coming to lead a morning of prayer and recollection for us on **Saturday 24th February** under the title **‘The God who is faithful. God’s Covenants with humanity**. Please see leaflets and posters in the church narthex.

Stations of the Cross will again take place on Friday mornings and evenings during Lent. We are inviting you to lead the Stations of the Cross **after Friday morning Mass**; please contact the parish office if you would like to do this. There are many texts available to choose from. There will also be a **Friday evening Mass at 7pm** in Lent followed by Fr Graham, Fr Axel or James leading Stations of the Cross.

Exodus, Passover, and The Jewish roots of Christianity
These topics help us understand and greater appreciate our faith and walk with the Lord Jesus Christ our Messiah. **Fr Axel will give a series of talks from 7.00pm-8.00pm on Monday evenings 26th February, 11th March and 25th March** on understanding the Exodus, the Feast of Passover and how Jesus fulfils all of this and how we live it every time we come to Mass. Anyone is invited to come. This will follow from Fr Javier’s talks and help us enter Holy Week with a greater understanding of why we celebrate Easter.

Social Club Annual Meeting is being held in the small hall at 7.30pm on **Sunday 11th February**.

Harrow Food Bank Collection is this weekend **3rd/4th February**
The foodbank would like carrier bags; tinned ravioli/ Bolognese; tinned spaghetti and sausages; microwavable sponge pudding; tinned mixed vegetables; cooking oil; tinned vegetarian & vegan meals; packet meat soup; tinned fish (not tuna); tinned meatballs; tinned potatoes; tinned lamb meals; tinned macaroni cheese; shampoo; shaving foam; men’s & women’s razors; adult toothbrush; toilet roll; washing powder; washing up liquid; men’s & women’s deodorant; chocolate spread; jam /marmalade; pasta sauce; honey

The Annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on **Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm** for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. Full information and invitation details will follow when available.

Mass Intentions – We are taking bookings for mass intentions for the current year and will confirm in the Parish Newsletter when we are taking mass intentions for next year 2025.

PARISH 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.

New parish website – The previous website is no longer being updated; the new one is part of the diocesan website and can be found at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrownorth> . More information is slowly being added such as current service and ministry rotas that can be found under 'parish life.'

OTHER NOTICES

Evangelising post-Christian Britain- a talk by Monsignor James Shea on **Tuesday, 20th February at 7pm** at St James' Church, Spanish Place, W1U 3DE (10mins from Baker Street Stn) - Monsignor James Shea, President of the University of Mary (Bismark, North Dakota) co-authored the book From Christendom to Apostolic Mission. In a lively lecture and Q&A, he will draw bridges between the different visions that the Church and the world have for our society, and suggest effective strategies to engage our own time and culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and then refreshments will be available. Book your tickets priced at £5 at www.guild-ransom.co.uk/events

CAFOD Big Lent Walk – Will you walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty? Take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk challenge to walk 200km over 40 days to help people overcome poverty. That is 5km per day and includes walking, skipping and strolling. You will be amongst many people conquering the target before Easter. Sign up now! See poster in church narthex or visit www.cafod.org.uk

...AND FINALLY

Proposed New local Night Bus Service - TfL are consulting on a new nightly Night Bus



service, N518, which would run from Ruislip via Eastcote, Rayners Lane Station, Alexandra Avenue and Whitton Avenue to join up with the existing N18 route at Sudbury and run via that to Trafalgar Square. It would run four times an hour on Fridays and Saturdays and twice an hour on other nights. Fr Graham intends to comment on behalf of the parish so please let him now if you have any comments you would like him to consider. For more details and to comment yourself visit <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/n518-ruislip-night-bus>