

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, 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)



11th February 2024 – SIXTH 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.

10th Sat	Saint Scholastica, Virgin
10.00am	Burney Goveas (Health Intentions) with GIFT families
6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday People of the Parish
11th Sun	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:30am	Joseph & Elsie Yim
10.00am	Emidio Mesquita RIP with children's Liturgy of the Word
11.30am	Sarah Gallagher
12th Mon	Feria
10.00am	Angela Clusker RIP/Anniv
13th Tue	Feria
10.00am	Anjalinah 8 th Birthday (Thanksgiving) & Mary Arulvelanathan (Thanksgiving)
14th Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY
10.00am	Scaria Joseph RIP/Anniv
7.00pm	Christians in the Holy Land
15th Thu	Lent Feria
7.00pm	Bridget Relf RIP/Anniv
16th Fri	Lent feria
10.00am	Norma Croos RIP
7.00pm	Ray and Kathleen Stokes RIP
17th Sat	Lent Feria
10.00am	Bridget (Bridie) Kavanagh RIP
6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday Marian Drapa RIP
18th Sun	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
8:30am	Bronwen Strinati RIP
10.00am	Lita Martins RIP/1 st Anniv
11.30am	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

Monday 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

MARRIAGE WEEK

St Valentine's Day will be a bit different this year, falling on Ash Wednesday! Yet every year the church celebrates the week leading up to 14th February as Marriage Week. This is a time to reflect on the gift of Christian Marriage and to pray for all those married and preparing for marriage.

The bishops write that "Marriage is God's gift to men and women. It is an expression of the depth of human loving, of its enduring reality and of its likeness to the love of



God. Marriage is also the fruit of a human desire for wholeness. That wholeness is not discovered simply in an individual but in the mutual exchange of love between a husband and wife. A marriage develops from initial attraction, falling in love, the exploration of personalities, a decision to embark upon and sustain a lifelong relationship.

A Christian marriage is rooted in faith. Firstly, that means faith in God, as the giver of life and the one who promises eternal life to those who believe in him. Faith also means God's faith in his sons and daughters. In Jesus, he has shown people what human love can achieve through love of God and love that encompasses all the people in our lives. For married people, love of neighbour begins with love of each other and of all the children that may be granted to them as parents. Marriage is a sacrament of reconciliation. It is the sacrament that endures even though it may bring its difficulties. It is a testimony to God's forgiveness that unites what has been divided and brings unexpected discoveries of what men and women are capable of when they trust each other and stay steadfast to the vows they made to each other on their wedding day.

We pray in gratitude to God who has given us life and taught us to love so that we can be as he made us – a visible icon of himself."

God Bless, Fr Graham

Reflect on upcoming Sunday's Readings with the help of

www.wednesdayword.org

1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15, Psalm 24,

1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

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 – Toi June Aw, Kerry O'Brien, Agnes Jane

Pray also for – Martha Dyball, Tessa Corrigan, Bernard Hickin, Fr Seamus McGeoghan, Patrick Hannigan, Teresa Fernandes, Angela Clusker, Albert Smith, Mary Dunleavy, Joan Hickey, Denny Bowles, George Ransley, Winnie McDonagh, Eileen Edwards, Nora Broderick, Fr Jeremy D'Cruz, Kathleen Beesley, Cecilia Woodhall, Aurora Fernandes, Bella D'Souza, Libia Lemos, David Notley, Bridget Davis, Terisa Stokes, John Duffy, Scaria Joseph, Eileen Reilly, Ann Kelleher, Matilda Stanislaus, Oswald MacCarthy, Sheila Wlodarczyk, Theresa Orakwue, Agnes D'Souza, Patricia Rebbitt, Bridget Mary Hoft, Terence "Terry" Malone and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

Tree and hedge cutting – there may be restricted or even no access to the church car park on **Monday 12th February** as contactors are working in the parish to control the vegetation.

Church heating – The parish centre boiler requires replacement so there will be minimal heating in the parish centre until this can be carried out. 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 for your patience and support



Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at the 10:00am Mass this Sunday, 11th February. Children from pre-school to Year 2 (ages 4-7 years) are welcome to join us for their own Liturgy of the Word during Mass.

Prayer Group – The prayer group for at your Word Lord starts on Tuesday 19th February after the 10 am mass at Neville Bayross's house. If you are interested in coming please contact Neville Bayross on phone number 0208 863 8876.

Defibrilators – These are now installed in the church narthex (where the 'pigeon holes' used to be) by the parish centre main entrance. London Hearts tell us that previous experience or first aid qualification/training is not necessary, however they provide a link to a demonstration training session including FAQs: <https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5> Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative in the Christmas raffle and other ways.

Mary's Meals – Thank you for supporting last week's appeal for prayer and support. A reminder that you can still leave your foreign currency in the church narthex this weekend.

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

Fire wardens – We need to have **fire wardens identified at each Sunday Mass**. If you are willing to help please contact Fr Graham. It is not an onerous duty and training will be provided.

LENT 2024

Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, **14th February**, and is a day of fasting and abstinence when we eat less and abstain from eating meat to 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 containing the Mass readings of Lent. Please put money in 'papers' box, 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 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.

Parish Lenten Alms – This year our Lenten Alms will support good causes both local and overseas. We will divide our collection between **Harrow Foodbank** and the appeal, supported by Cardinal Vincent, launched by Cardinal Pizzaballa the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, to support **Christians in the Holy Land**.

Ecumenical Lenten Lunches are taking place on four Saturdays in Lent starting at 12noon on **Saturday 2nd March** at Elmfield on Imperial Drive. For more details see poster on noticeboard in church narthex.

Ecumenical worship during Lent is taking place on weekday evenings at a number of churches across North Harrow starting with pancakes followed by a talk at Elmfield at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 13th February**. More details on noticeboard in church narthex.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal – if you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. Thank you.

PARISH NOTICES (online only)

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.

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.

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 (online only)

A Day with Mary – A day of instruction, devotion and intercessions based on the message given at Fatima in 1917 at Our Lady & St Michael, Crown Rise, Garston from 10am on **Saturday 2nd March**. See poster on noticeboard in church narthex.

Breakspear: The English Pope – An illustrated talk by Adrian Waddingham at St Matthew's, Northwood from 7.30pm on **Saturday 9th March**. Tickets priced £10 available from Northwood parish. For more details see poster on noticeboard in church narthex.

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