

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, axcel soriano@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)



18th February 2024 – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

17th Sat	Lent feria
10.00am	Bridget (Bridie) Kavanagh RIP
	Vigil Mass of Sunday
6.00pm	Marian Drapa RIP
18th Sun	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
8:30am	Bronwen Strinati RIP
10.00am	Lita Martins RIP/1st Anniv
11.30am	People of the Parish
19th Mon	Lent Feria
10.00am	Anna & Raymond Ngeh RIP
20th Tue	Lent Feria
10.00am	Keith Bayross RIP/1 st Anniv
21st Wed	Lent Feria
10.00am	Bridget (Bridie) Kavanagh RIP
22nd Thu	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE
7.00pm	Mary Joan Obeyesekere RIP
23rd Fri	Lent feria
10.00am	Pat & Tony McWilliams (Illness) followed by Stations of the Cross
12 Noon	Funeral Mass Kerry O'Brien RIP
7.00pm	St John Fisher School (thanksgiving) followed by Stations of the Cross
24th Sat	Lent Feria
10.00am	Helen Ryan Morning of Recollection
	Vigil Mass of Sunday
6.00pm	Eileen Steinitz RIP/10 th Anniv
25th Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
8:30am	People of the Parish
10.00am	Ann & Patrick Kilcoyne RIP/Anniv
11.30am	Thomas Teehan (90 th Birthday)

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

JEWISH ROOTS OF OUR FAITH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as you all know Lent has begun. Our life is full of distraction, full of things to do. I invite you to take one hour from your normal routine to get to know the Lord of History, the one who dwelt among us and is with us, and the one who wants to save us.



I will be giving 3 talks on the Exodus, the Jewish Passover: what it signifies, and How it is fulfilled in Christ. This can help us have a brand-new light to better understand and celebrate Easter, the Triduum, and the celebration of every Sunday when we come to Mass.

Hosea the prophet says; “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” **Hosea 4:6** let us take these words as a help because if we are ignorant about our faith how can we give reason for it? I would also like to stress that I am not an academic, but I have received and stored during the years this understanding of our Jewish roots. The fifth Gospel is the Holy Land; unfortunately we cannot go there and we pray for peace there, but understanding the roots of the faith can help us see that God is a God who acts and engages in our life, whether we know it or not. Let us engage with him and come to these talks which are on **Mondays 26th Feb, 11th March, and 25th March from 7pm-8pm in the Fisher Room.** No need to take notes just come and receive something new. It's Good to come out our comfort zone, this is how a people was liberated from bondage to Pharaoh.

God Bless, Fr Axcel

Reflect on upcoming Sunday's Readings with the help of

www.wednesdayword.org

2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2.9-13.15-18, Psalm 115,
Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

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 – Winifred Roach, John Foley, Pat Ryan, Gabriel Dias, Lil Cawley, Joan Chan, Delia Burke, Eileen Steinitz, Francis Roberts, Thomas Martin, Margaret Caden, James 'Seamus' Browne, Daniel 'Donal' Ryan, Joe Reilly, Aristides Cordoba, Kitty Tully, John Noble, Patrick Kilcoyne, Leon St Hill, Michael Anderson, Nanette Burke, Mark Byrne and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is this coming **Friday, 23rd February**. Fast day envelopes are available in the narthex for you to take in advance of next week's collection.

Church heating – The parish centre boiler requires replacement so there will be no 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



The **Funeral Mass of Kerry O'Brien RIP** will take place on **Friday 23rd February at 12 Noon** followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We keep Kerry's family and friends in our prayers at this time. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Synodal Pathway – The next stage of our input into the Synodal Pathway is now taking place. We have been invited at very short notice to respond to our local dean with answers to the following questions:

Q.1 How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith to:

- those who have never heard of Christ;
- those who have ceased walking with Christ;
- those with whom we worship Christ (who go to church)?

Q.2: How should we organise ourselves as a Parish to do this more effectively?

Q.3: What concrete steps/formation opportunities would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?

Q.4: What structures may need to change? How might we need to develop the way we are organised currently?

If you have any response on all or any of these questions please pass it to Fr Graham (grahamstokes@rcdow.org.uk) **by 29th February**. If you can discuss at home or with friends that would be even better! These issues are at the very heart of our desire for parish renewal so are of help to us as a parish and worth reflecting on ourselves outside of the synodal process,

Defibrillators – These are now installed in the church narthex and by the parish centre main entrance. London Hearts tell us that previous experience or first aid qualification/training is not necessary, however they have provided a link to a demonstration: <https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5> Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative in the Christmas raffle and other ways.

LENT 2024

Lent 'My Day by Day' Adult and Junior booklet are available at the back of the church at £1.

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 Axcel 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 Axcel 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. Please see poster and flyers in church narthex.

Additional opportunities for confession – Fr Javier will hear confessions as part of our Morning of Recollection on 24th February. Details of further visiting confessors and opportunities for confession both here and locally to follow

Parish Lenten Alms – This year our Lenten Alms will support **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. The next is on **Tuesday 27th February at 7.30pm** at St Alban's on The Ridgeway. More details on noticeboard in church narthex.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal –. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to this appeal 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.

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 on phone number 0208 863 8876.

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.

PARISH NOTICES (online only)

Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment - Right to Life UK are asking us to contact our local MPs to ask them to support an amendment to reduce the abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Please collect a postcard from the back of the church and post it to Gareth Thomas MP (Harrow West) or your local MP in support of this amendment!

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