

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)



25th February 2024 – SECOND 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.

24th Sat 10.00am	Lent feria Helen Ryan Morning of Recollection <i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i> Eileen Steinitz RIP/10 th Anniv
25th Sun 8:30am 10.00am 11.30am	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT People of the Parish Ann & Patrick Kilcoyne RIP/Anniv Thomas Teehan 90 th Birthday
26th Mon 10.00am	Lent Feria Christopher Ponnukone RIP
27th Tue 10.00am	Lent Feria Agnes Jane RIP
28th Wed 10.00am	Lent Feria Patrick Sloane RIP/Anniv
29th Thu 7.00pm	Lent Feria Nora Broderick Anniversary
1st Fri 10.00am 7.00pm	SAINT DAVID, Bishop Patron of Wales Holy Souls <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i> <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
2nd Sat 10.00am 6.00pm	Lent Feria Monica Fitzmaurice RIP/Anniv <i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i> Ana Francisca Fernandes RIP
3rd Sun 8:30am 10.00am 11.30am	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Rose Palmeno (health & wellbeing) Maureen King RIP 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

CALL FOR PRAYER ON ANNIVERSARY OF INVASION OF UKRAINE



Saturday 24th February, marks the second anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. It's a conflict that has slipped from the headlines somewhat, but the fighting remains intense and the suffering is great. Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Bishop of the Eparchy, or diocese, of the Holy Family of London has called for prayer at this time as well as support and a re-evaluation of how we are all called to be peacemakers in our society today

Bishop Nowakowski, who looks after the UK's Ukrainian Catholic Community, has raised the plight of Ukraine's people, but he also calls for prayer for the suffering of the Holy Land caught up in the conflict in Gaza. He emphasises that, although we live miles away from the conflict, during this Lenten time of fasting and alms-giving, the other main pillar of the season – prayer – is where our focus should lie. He says that "We can't help everybody throughout the world with our limited means, but surely we can pray. Pray for peace, pray for justice, pray for those who are alone. Pray for those who are suffering – especially for those who are suffering separation. We think of the families that have been torn apart because of the war in Ukraine, the tens of thousands of young women who have fled to the United Kingdom with their children while their husbands have had to remain behind to defend Ukraine."

God Bless, Fr Graham

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

3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 (or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17) Psalm 18,
Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

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 – Joanna Roberts, Catherine Lissemore, Dina Frate, Trevor Dunkley, Patrick Savage, Eugenia Chellotti, George Niznik, Maidie Wilson, Brendan Nelson, James Small, Thomas Lee, Francis Roberts, Joan Barry, Jack O’Gorman, Istvan Papp, Katherine Obi, Margaret Caden, Patrick Sloane, Sylvester Rebbitt, Joana De Souza, Archie O’Brien, John Rogers Monica Fitzmaurice, Francois Joseph, Charles Dunleavy, and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

CAFOD Family Fast Day - This Lent, your donations will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelopes available in the narthex or online at www.cafod.org.uk and join us in praying that our brothers and sisters around the world have what they need to feed their families. Thank you.

Church heating – The parish centre boiler requires replacement 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 support



GIFT, Family Catechesis - Parents’ Meeting Rescheduled - With apologies for whatever technical issues arose this week we will reschedule our parents’ Zoom meeting for next **Thursday 29th February at 8pm**. A new link will be sent out on Monday.

Defibrilators – These are now installed in the church narthex and by the parish centre main entrance. Another visit has been arranged from St John’s Ambulance to demonstrate how it works. This will take place **after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 9th March**. London Hearts have also provided a link to a demonstration: <https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5>.

Harrow Food Bank Collection is next weekend **2nd/3rd March**. The following are required: Bags for life; long life skimmed & whole milk; long life fruit juice; squash; tinned ravioli/Bolognese; tinned spaghetti & sausages; sponge pudding microwaveable; tinned mixed vegetable; cooking oil; tinned meat, corned beef, tinned vegetarian & vegan meals, packet meat soup, tinned fish (not tuna); tinned meatballs; tinned carrots; tinned potatoes; tinned Irish stew/tinned lamb meals; tinned macaroni cheese; tinned custard; coffee (small jars). Thank you

Parish Women’s Social Group - Book evening on Thursday, 21st March at 7.45pm in the small hall of our Parish Centre. Cost: £1. We will be discussing ‘Mad Honey’ by Jodi Picoult & Jennifer Fianey Boylan. However, do come even if you haven’t read it as we will also be sharing our recommendations of books recently read and enjoyed. Small portions of snacks or drinks to share would be appreciated. The PWSG is open to all women in the parish and their invited friends. Newcomers will be made most welcome.

LENT 2024

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 this **Saturday, 24th February**, on ‘**The God who is faithful. God’s Covenants with humanity**’. Please see leaflets and posters in the church narthex.

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 in the Fisher Room on Mondays starting this Monday, 26th February then on 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.

Stations of the Cross take place on Friday mornings and evenings during Lent. We invite 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 to choose from. There is a **Friday evening Mass at 7pm in Lent** followed by Fr Graham, Fr Axel or James leading Stations of the Cross.

Additional opportunities for confession – Fr Javier will hear confessions as part of our Morning of Recollection on 24th February. At least two visiting confessors will be here from 10.30-12noon on **Saturday 15th March**.

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 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 in areas 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. If you wish to contribute please take a donation envelope today, for more information. Thank you.

The Annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on **Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm**. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the parish office with: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

PARISH NOTICES (online only)

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.

Synodal Pathway – The next stage of our input into the Synodal Pathway is taking place. We have been invited at short notice to respond to our dean with answers to the 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,

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!

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.