

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)



3rd March 2024 – THIRD 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.

2nd Sat	Lent feria
10.00am	Monica Fitzmaurice RIP/Anniv
	<i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i>
6.00pm	Anna Francisca Fernandes RIP
3rd Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
8:30am	Rose Palmer (Health & Wellbeing)
10.00am	Maureen King RIP
11.30am	People of the Parish
4th Mon	Lent Feria
10.00am	Gerard Soong (Sick)
5th Tue	Lent Feria
10.00am	Nora Ding RIP/2 nd Anniv
6th Wed	Lent Feria
10.00am	Ann Roach RIP
7th Thu	Lent Feria
7.00pm	Ned & John Stack
8th Fri	Lent Feria
10.00am	Mary Monaghan RIP/Anniv <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
	7.00pm Eden Family <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
9th Sat	Lent Feria
10.00am	Vocation for Married Life
	<i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i>
6.00pm	Raj Rajendra RIP
10th Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
8:30am	People of the Parish
10.00am	Stella & Jacqui Mesquita RIP & all Mums
11.30am	Katherine Hayes RIP

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 POWER OF PRAYER IN LENT

Brothers and sisters in Christ as we continue in this journey of Lent through the desert we are invited to discover the power of prayer.



Prayer is essential for one's life as it serves as a direct line of communication with God; Christ himself says that prayer is also a help to cast out difficult demons from our lives. The prayer of the heart offers us solace, guidance, and strength. It provides a moment of introspection and connection, allowing us to express gratitude, seek guidance, and to find comfort in times of need. Through prayer, we can articulate our hopes, fears, and aspirations.

Moreover, prayer offers us a sense of community too. This time of Lent we can come together collectively to express our faith and support one another. Prayer instills a sense of discipline and encourages in us regular reflection and spiritual growth especially if it's scripture based. Looking at the History of Salvation let us immerse ourselves in this form of prayer which is known in the Church as Lectio Divina. By aligning one's thoughts and intentions with God's will, we can better understand in the scriptures our life and what He is doing with us; prayer can also promote ethical behavior and a sense of purpose.

Finally, but not least, prayer is a transformative exercise for our interior life that nourishes the soul, providing a source of comfort, inspiration, and guidance in navigating life's challenges and celebrating its joys as we are called to be a grateful people as well. Lent is a joyful time and a time where we can live well in the Lord.

God Bless, Fr Axcel

Reflect on upcoming Sunday's Readings with the help of

www.wednesdayword.org

4th Sunday of Lent

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 Psalm 136,
Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21

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 – Christine Murphy

Pray also for – Helen Cronin, Patricia McCarthy, Delia Murphy, Noel Johns, John Dignam, Veronica Furie, Doris McNulty, Helen Leahy, Hondra Norgate-Bennett, Nora Ding, Gilbert Lee, Ghandy Mangani, Celeste Robinson, Anthony Heffernan, Jimmy Gilmore, Irene Smith, John Rogers Margaret Turner, Maria McCullough, Donal Ryan, , Mary Cross Colin Martin, John Orogun, Richard Cobb, Andrzej Drapa, Brian Morahan and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

CAFOD Family Fast Day – You can still leave any donations in giving envelopes into the collection or parish office.

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity when we visited at the beginning of February. Donations totalling £663.66 will enable Mary's Meals to feed 34 children one good meal every school day for a whole year. Thank you so much for your support, please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals.

Defibrillator use training – 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 this weekend. 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

Send a message to a prisoner of conscience - On **9th & 10th March** you are invited to sign a postcard with a message of hope to a prisoner of conscience. Cards will be on a table in the narthex and you are invited to pray for that prisoner over the coming weeks. Postage will be £2.20 per card & you are invited to contribute to the cost if you are able to.

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 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 welcome.

LENT 2024

Exodus, Passover, and The Jewish roots of Christianity -. Fr Axcel will continue his series of talks 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 from 7.00pm-8.00pm in the Fisher Room on **Monday 11th and 25th March**. 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 Axcel or James leading Stations of the Cross.

Additional opportunities for confession –At least two visiting confessors will be here from 10.30-12noon on **Saturday 16th March**. There will be additional opportunities for Confessions at Our Lady & St Thomas on **Saturday 23rd March** from 10.30am and at St Luke's Pinner on **Sunday 24th March** from 3pm.

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. 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.

Family catechesis – The noticeboard at the back of the church gives details of what we did at the last session and lets you know when the next sessions are. Take a look at what our children are learning about!

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).

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



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.

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 new website is part of the diocesan website and can be found at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrownorth>.

Missio and Mill Hill Missionaries: Volunteer required - Local Secretaries are the 'engine room' of the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Missio is the Pope's own charity for overseas mission and helps God's love to be shared by supporting local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of background or belief, and works in partnership with the Mill Hill Missionaries, Britain's own missionary society. Local Secretaries look after the Red Box members in their parish, ensuring that boxes are emptied and organising the distribution of the free quarterly magazine, Mission Today. The Red Box can be found in 200,000 homes across England and Wales and plays a vital role in the universal mission of the Church. Our volunteers have the full support of the Missio team. More information at www.missio.org.uk Please make yourself known to Fr Graham who will contact Missio to get you started.

OTHER NOTICES (online only)

Lenten devotions, Westminster Cathedral Choir will perform Bach's retelling of St John Passion **on Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm** at Westminster Cathedral. J.S. Bach's setting of the Passion story was first performed in 1724 and has since become a popular staple of the season of Lent. You are invited to join this devotional performance by the world-famous Choir directed by Master of Music, Simon Johnson, accompanied by a period Baroque Orchestra and joined by outstanding soloists: James Gilchrist and William Thomas. This is a wonderful chance to hear the Cathedral's superb choir performing one of the greatest pieces of Easter music ever written. Tickets are available at <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00602BD7A81B4F?d=id=sjp30>

Young Adults Lent Retreat Day - with the Assumption Sisters & Fathers on **Saturday 16th March 11am – 7pm** at The Assumption Priory, Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PB (closest tube station: Bethnal Green). Programme: including talks, prayer, adoration and confessions, Stations of the Cross, faith sharing, Mass and social time. Donations only. Register by emailing: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

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.