

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)



17th March 2024 – FIFTH 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.

16th Sat	Lent feria
10.00am	Jackie Fong Visiting Priests available for confession (10.30 to 12)
	Vigil Mass of Sunday
6.00pm	Enzo Tagliani
17th Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
8.30am	Timothy Fitzgerald
10.00am	Colin & Daphne Martin RIP/Anniv
11.30am	People of the Parish
18th Mon	Lent Feria
10.00am	Gerard Soong (Sick)
19th Tue	ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Virgin Mary
10.00am	Craig Carter RIP
20th Wed	Lent Feria
10.00am	John Stanley Quinton RIP
21st Thu	Lent Feria
12 noon	Agnes Kelly RIP Funeral Mass
7.00pm	Patrick O'Connor RIP/Anniv
22nd Fri	Lent Feria
10.00am	Niranji Laval RIP followed by Stations of the Cross
7.00pm	Jacintha Niranji Lovell RIP followed by Stations of the Cross
23rd Sat	Lent Feria
10.00am	William Johns RIP/2 nd Anniv
	Vigil Mass of Sunday
6.00pm	Agnes Kelly RIP
24th Sun	PALM SUNDAY
8.30am	William Patrick Johns RIP/2 nd Anniv
10.00am	Bastiampillai Rajan RIP/1 st Anniv
	Gather for 9.45am outside St Albans, The Ridgeway for Blessing of Palms and procession to St John Fisher
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

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

CHRIST IS OUR PASSOVER



Brothers and Sisters as we get closer to Easter we are invited to fully participate in these celebrations of our Faith. One thing that I explained in my talks on the Passover, and what the people did before celebrating this great feast, was to get rid of the leaven. Yeast or leaven

makes bread rise, but the people of Israel of the scriptures before passing over through the Red Sea, had to have unleavened bread because they had no time to bake and make it rise, they were in a haste. Even today they keep this practice as a way to be reminded that they need to be ready to pass when the Lord calls. Our Lord Jesus speaks also about leaven and to be aware of leaven which makes us rise and think we have no need for God's Passover. In other words Jesus invites us to avoid hypocrisy and be attentive to the work God can do in our lives **Mark 8:14-22**.

This year God invites us to get rid of the old leaven and bring in the new which is Christ himself. The Jewish people (**And Jesus was Jewish**) in their Passover celebration have this reminder **"In every generation all individuals should regard themselves as if they personally had come out of Egypt as we read, 'you shall tell your child on that day: 'It is in commemoration of what God did for me when I came out of Egypt.' For the Holy One, ever to be blessed, redeemed not only our ancestors, but us along with them, as it is said: God led us out from there, so as to bring us into the land promised to our ancestors and give it to us." Haggadah and pascal seder rites.**



As we get closer to these celebrations we are reminded that Christ died for us and promises us eternal life. This is not just a mere story, but its the saving action of God who frees us from sin and death. When we celebrate this year let us be reminded of this Truth and receive the Hope it can give us in our life. **Amen.**

God Bless. Fr Axcel

Reflect on upcoming Sunday's Readings with the help of

www.wednesdayword.org

Passion Sunday

Mark 11:1-10; Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21,
Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

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 – Jacintha Niranji Lovell

Pray also for – Sophie Swidzinska, Margaret Enwright, Michael Wlodarczyk, Ernesto Placencia, Wijdan Marji, Jason Moore-Martin, Ted Finn, Maria Magdolna Braun, Anthony Caden, Lisa Alex, James O'Shea, Nora Forde, Margaret Locascio, James Finn, Elizabeth Cahill, Alfred Hill, Leon Casartelli, Beryl Barltrop, Sergio Carvalho, Bertie Pillai, Stephen Forde, Catherine McGuire, Ellen Kiernan, Wojciech Mlek, Richard Borio, Patrick O'Connor, Paul Esler and all whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

PARISH NOTICES

Holy Week and Easter posters are available to collect in the narthex after Mass. Put one up in your window to tell people of the events of this most holy of weeks.

Making Palm Crosses – These are being put together on **Friday 22nd March after the 10am mass**. If you would like to help come to the Fisher Room after mass. We would be grateful if you could bring your own scissors. Thank You

Palm Sunday and Holy Week services – Flyers are available this weeknd with the timings of the services for Holy Week and Easter. Note that **on Palm Sunday, 24th March, the 10.00am Mass will start outside St Alban's Church on The Ridgeway** with the Opening Gospel and Blessing of Palms before we process to St John Fisher to continue Mass. **Please gather for 9.45am outside St Alban's. There will be reduced parking in the church car park that weekend** Please be considerate and park nearby and/or walk if you are able to do so.

A big clean for Holy Week and Easter – Please come and join our regular parish cleaning teams on **Saturday 23rd June from 8am-10am** to make the church shining for Easter! There will be some refreshments in the Fisher Room after Mass as a token of appreciation.

Easter Offering – Envelopes are available in the church narthex for your Easter offering towards the clergy. This is paid into the parish bank account and supports the stipend that the diocese pays its priests. Regular standing orders do not include an Easter Offering. You can also support this collection using the contactless giving device. Thank you for your generosity

Funeral Mass for Agnes Kelly RIP will take place on **Thursday 21st March** at 12noon followed by committal at Hendon Crematorium.

Funeral Mass for Mary Quinn RIP will take place on **Monday 25th March** at 12noon followed by committal at Pinner New Cemetery. Mary moved to Farnham in Hampshire in 2016 to live near her son and daughter.

Please keep Agnes and Mary and their families in your prayers at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Family Catechesis – The next parents' only meeting will take place on **Thursday 18th April** at 8pm via ZOOM. The noticeboard at the back of the church gives details of what we did at the

LENT 2024

Exodus, Passover, and The Jewish roots of Christianity -. Fr Axcel will conclude his series of talks on 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 25th March**.

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 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 – Three 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 of Cardinal Pizzaballa the Patriarch of Jerusalem, supported by Cardinal Vincent to support **Christians in the Holy Land**.

Ecumenical Lenten Lunches are taking place on four Saturdays in Lent. 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 this appeal supports 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 with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. If you wish to contribute please take a donation envelope.

March session and lets you know when the next sessions are. Take a look at what our children are learning about and come and join us if you have children of primary school age.

Parish Women's Social Group The group will host a **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. do come 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.

Walk in the Chilterns - On Saturday 23rd March the group is planning a walk in the Chilterns. It will be an 8km walk from West Wycombe of moderate difficulty with a small pub lunch in the middle. If you wish to join us, please get contact Anna Ryland (annaryland22@aol.com or 0774 710 3303).

Save the date: Saturday, 20th April, 7 pm - QUIZ NIGHT In the Parish Centre. Tickets £5 cash (on sale after masses on 6/7 and 13/14 April)..Snacks provided and a cash bar. Bring a team or join one on the night!



PARISH NOTICES (online only)

Lourdes Pilgrimage 19th- 26th July 2024 – Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nicholas is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.

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.

The Annual Mass for Matrimony will be in Westminster Cathedral will be 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



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.

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)

'Cabrinis' film - Now showing in cinemas including Harrow Vue, Cabrini is the story of Saint Frances Cabrini, better known as Mother Cabrini. It is the epic story of Catholic missionary, Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who arrives in New York City in 1889 and is greeted by disease, crime and impoverished children. With broken English and poor health, Cabrini uses her entrepreneurial mind to build an empire of hope unlike the world has ever seen.