



**ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
41/42 LANGDALE GARDENS, PERIVALE, UB6 8DQ

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**YouTube Channel:** [St John Fisher RC Church Perivale - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - B**

Isaiah 55:1-11

1 John 5:1-9

Mark 1:7-11

**10th January 2021**

Parish Mass Book p119

**DIocese OF WESTMINSTER**

**THE CURRENT POSITION AND ROLE OF OUR CHURCHES IN THIS PHASE OF THE PANDEMIC**

We are aware that questions are being asked as to why churches remain open during this National Lockdown. We are also aware that many local authorities are calling for places of worship to close. We wish to respond to these concerns.

Churches are allowed to open for prayer and communal worship at this time according to the provision of the most recent national legislation and Government guidance. This decision is based on two factors: the recognition that our churches are safe, and that the service they offer is essential.

The safety of our churches has been affirmed by Public Health England in its current advice to the Government. This is publicly recognised to be the result of the great efforts made by many people in the implementation of procedures mandated by PHE and thereby establishing the necessary conditions within churches for their safe use.

Our churches are making a significant contribution to the personal resilience and inner strength of people which is much needed at this time. Many are hubs from which essential support is offered especially to those most in need, extending well beyond the faith communities which use them. This includes the regular provision of food; the care of the homeless; and being a place of peace and reflection (which is safe) for many whose living conditions are very limited. This will become more appreciated as the programme of vaccination increases. The vital link between prayer and action is important to maintain this service.

At this phase of the pandemic, which is causing alarm and fear, our churches will exercise their role with increased diligence to ensure continuing safety and service.

Our clergy will ensure that all are aware that there is no duty or responsibility to come to church and communicate to all there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. They will review, in each local area, the provision offered by the church in order to ensure that the highest standards of safety are maintained. This will include a review of the role of stewards, the provision of additional social distancing within the church, a review of cleansing routines, and consideration of the personal circumstances of the priest(s) and people. On this basis there will be a local evaluation and decision about the possible reduction in the times of opening and the frequency of communal worship.

In conclusion we recognise the higher levels of fear and anxiety which the new strain of the virus has prompted and we have a very proper awareness of the care which must be exercised by everyone, under the guidance of PHE health professionals.

We recognise, too, that isolation is having a profound detrimental effect on people and that the role of churches in easing that isolation in ways which are safe and supportive has been recognised as a positive and beneficial contribution to the common good.

We pray for the dedicated work of the NHS and continue to provide spiritual support to staff and patients through the network of chaplains working both in the hospitals and the community.

Bishop John Sherrington  
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster

8th January 2021

## OUR PARISH DURING LOCKDOWN

As a parish we have had to consider our own local situation, weighing up the needs of parishioners, the availability of volunteers and the importance of keeping everyone safe.

We have therefore come to the decision that the best course of action is to reduce the number of Public Masses here at St John Fisher.

We will continue to open on certain days, for those who still wish to come to Mass in person, and will ensure we can continue to provide a safe environment for those that do come.

**Starting from this weekend, Sunday 10th January, the church will be open as follows:**

<b>Sundays</b>	9.30am	<b>Public Mass</b>	(LS)	Places must be booked for this Mass.
	11.30am	No Mass		<b>This Mass will be cancelled until further notice.</b>
<b>Mondays</b>	10.00am	Private Mass	(LS)	<b>The church will be closed.</b> Mass will be said without a congregation. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Praying of the Rosary will follow at 10.30am.
<b>Tuesdays</b>	10.00am	Private Mass	(LS)	<b>The church will be closed.</b> Mass will be said without a congregation.
<b>Wednesdays</b>		No Mass		<b>The church will be closed.</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	10.00am	<b>Public Mass</b>	(LS)	No need to book for this Mass
<b>Fridays</b>	10.00am	<b>Public Mass</b>	(LS)	No need to book for this Mass
<b>Saturdays</b>	6.30pm	<b>Public Mass</b>		Places must be booked for this Mass

(LS) - These Masses will be livestreamed

This is a temporary change to our Mass schedule, which will last for the next few weeks. We will continue to monitor the situation and will keep you informed of any further changes.

Please remember that, at this time, there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, therefore please consider coming on a Thursday or Friday, if you still wish to come in person.

## LIVESTREAMING OF MASSES

We are also now livestreaming most of our Masses, which you can watch from home via our YouTube channel.

[St John Fisher RC Church Perivale - YouTube](#)

The above link will take you straight to our channel or you can search for us on YouTube by looking for 'St John Fisher RC Church Perivale'. You can watch Mass live or you can follow a recorded Mass the following day.

We would encourage you to Subscribe to the channel to make our Masses easier to find next time.

(Please note that due to the security settings on our YouTube channel, the 'notifications' feature is turned off).

## MASS INTENTIONS

Masses will continue to be said each day for the intentions requested. Mass Intentions for Sunday will be prayed for during the Sunday 9.30am Mass.

Please continue to book Mass intentions and the Tabernacle Candlelight either by calling us or taking an envelope from the church lobby and returning it to the Parish Office.

## PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will continue to be open during the week Monday - Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church officially concludes, for us and with us, the Christmas season. It's very appropriate that the baptism of the Lord is connected with Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth, even if his baptism took place 30 years later. And the reason is that this feast reveals to us more fully who Jesus is and why he came into the world.

At Christmas we focus not only on the child but also on the mother of the child, on Mary. Christmas presents to us the Saviour and also the mother of the Saviour, the Virgin Mary, the mother of God.

But as Christ is baptised in the Jordan by John, the father of the child is revealed. Everybody has a father and a mother. Christ has an earthly mother but not an earthly father. Who is Jesus' father? The father in heaven, God, the one who opened the heavens and let his voice be heard. The one who today says to us: This is my son, the beloved, my favour rests on him.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is really a continuation of the solemnity of the Epiphany. The Baptism of the Lord is yet another Epiphany; another powerful manifestation of who Christ is, of his identity as God's beloved son. Like the visit of the Magi, the baptism of the Lord by John in the Jordan, opens our eyes once again to the action of God and his presence in Christ.

At the end of this truly wonderful Christmas season may the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord bring us to the full realisation of who Christ really is for us, in our lives. He is not simply a good man or a noble example to follow, or some sort of hero we should struggle to imitate. This Feast proclaims that Christ is truly the son of God, his beloved Son, on whom his favour rests. He is the one who brings in us the divine life of the Trinity.

*Fr Agustin*



## POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - JANUARY 2021

**At the Service of Human Fraternity** - "May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all"



The message chosen to open the year 2021 is dedicated to human fraternity: in response to all the challenges facing humanity, the Holy Father asks that we open ourselves to each other and unite, as human beings and as brothers and sisters, "with those who pray according to other cultures, other traditions and other beliefs."

As he has said on other occasions, **"There is no alternative: we will either build the future together or there will not be a future. Religions, in particular, cannot renounce the urgent task of building bridges between peoples and cultures."**

"When we pray to God following Jesus, we come together as brothers and sisters with those who pray according to other cultures, other traditions and other beliefs. "We are brothers and sisters who pray.

"Fraternity leads us to open ourselves to the Father of all and to see in the other a brother or sister, to share our lives or to support, to love, and to know each other.

"The Church values God's action in other religions, without forgetting that for us Christians, the wellspring of human dignity and fraternity, is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"We believers must return to our sources and concentrate on what is essential. What is essential to our faith is the adoration of God and love of neighbor.

"Let us pray that the Lord may give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions and not fight each other, and praying for one another, open ourselves to all."

*(Text courtesy of Vatican News website - [Pope's prayer intention for January: At the service of fraternity - Vatican News](#))*

## LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

It is important at this time that we continue to help each other, whilst still ensuring we follow all the necessary health and social distancing rules. As we deal with yet another lockdown, a lockdown that in many ways will feel tougher than the last one, please look out for those around you. We are aware of many cases of family, friends and neighbours who, for months now, have been supporting those who cannot go outside - real shining examples of Love in Action - Thank You to everyone who is continuing to do this!

### How you can help

A simple phone call can go a very long way - even if it's to the person next door. Someone may need help but may be too embarrassed to ask. A phone call can give hope, joy, something to look forward to.

Offer to do someone's shopping - you might be able to do it online for them and have it delivered rather than having to pick it up yourself. Offer to order other items - perhaps something they cannot get from the supermarket.

Talk a short walk with someone - we can all do some exercise outdoors and we are permitted to meet one other person to exercise with them. We know the detrimental effect staying indoors all the time has had on so many. Provided it is done safely (wear a face covering and keep a safe distance), offer to take a short walk with someone, even if it's just up and down their street.

However you help, please keep yourself and the person you are helping safe.



## CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - CRIB APPEAL

You are invited to make a 'Crib Offering' again this year, which will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society **to support their work with disadvantaged children and families in the UK**. Your donations will help bring hope and change to children and families living in poverty, as well as those experiencing emotional and psychological distress. Through their services, the Catholic Children's Society aim to help children overcome disadvantage, achieve their full potential and have better chances in life. **A separate collection box is available in the lobby for your donations**

### CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2021

Registration is open for the next Confirmation programme. **Young people in Year 8 or above**, who feel ready to prepare for this Sacrament, can apply. The programme will start during the spring term with Masses later in the year, in October 2021. If you would like to apply, please contact the parish office by email: [perivale@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:perivale@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone: **0208 997 3164**

### REFERENCES FOR NURSERY & RECEPTION

The deadline for applications for September places for Nursery and Reception is this Friday 15th January. If you are applying for a place in a Catholic school, are a parishioner and have not yet requested a reference, please contact the parish office as soon as possible this week.

### LITURGY TIMES THIS WEEK

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Alcinda Ramos RIP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Patrick Vesey RIP (Anniv)
			<b>11.30am</b>	Margaret Power RIP (Anniv)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Annie Kelly RIP (Anniv)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Rosada de Araujo
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>No Mass</b>		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Cyril Cutinha RIP
<b>Friday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Alcinda Ramos RIP
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	In Thanksgiving to the Infant Jesus
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B</b>				
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	All care workers
			<b>11.30am</b>	People of the Parish

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays after Mass from 10.30am-11.00am  
Confession: Saturdays 5.15pm - 6.00pm or by appointment.

**Please pray for:** Gigi Reale, Jo Dearlove, Malgorzata Myrkwa, Terril Park, George Brum, Chris Keeffe, David Newbert, Teresa Oatway, Stephen Connellan, Stanley Cummins, Avit Castillo, Avelina Pelaez Siddiqi, Marlene Lock, Michael Delaney, Maria Wales, Suzanne Acton, Carl Bryan,

**for those who died recently:** Michael Murray (brother of Charlie Murray), Michael Garrett, Breda Connellan, William Talbutt and Philomena Feighery.

**and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time:** Nicholas Fardey, Bridget Markey, Michael O'Neill, Monica Strabel, Nora Keigher, Pushpa Fernando, James Mulcahy, Johnny Leung, Kate Quinn, Sean Healy, Patrick Mahon, George Burns, Sydney Tai, Margaret Power, John Boyle, Michael McDonagh, Daniel Byrne, Thomas Martin, Catherine Woods, John McGovern, and Giovanni Sozzi.