



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
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www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Middleton 020 8429 5684 shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Catechist: Kay O'Connor 020 8429 5682 kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh 020 8429 5681 claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk (10am - 1pm Mon-Wed-Fri)

25th September 2011 ~ 26th Sunday of the Year A

We Welcome...

People of All faiths and Cultures
Divorced or Separated persons
Families with Children
Those in Loving Relationships
Those in Difficulty
Married Couples
Single persons
Those in Recovery
Travellers from Far and Near
Widows and Widowers
Visitors

We Seek...

To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
To Gather the Community and Tell the Story
To Sing and Make Music to the Lord
To Break the Bread and Share the Cup

We Celebrate...

Diversity
A spirit of hospitality
The unity that God wills
Enlightening those who seek God
Forming small faith communities
Reaching out to alienated Catholics
Reverencing the dignity of each person
Caring for the needs of the less fortunate
Empowering Christians to realise their call
Providing a spiritual Oasis
Honouring an understanding among all faiths
Nurturing our gifts and sharing them

On September 16th 2011 the Bishops of England and Wales re-introduced the idea of abstaining from eating meat on Fridays. In a letter to his own diocese, Bishop Edwin Regan of Wrexham, talked about the nature of penitence. Then he made the following observations with regard to Fridays.

"From ancient times, Friday was a day of penitence, for on that first Good Friday, Jesus tore down the curtain of evil that separated us from God. Every Friday is a day of penance for Catholics: this is nothing new. Since 1985 we have been free to choose how to observe Friday penance. However, reflecting on the visit of Pope Benedict last year, the Bishops of England and Wales decided it would be good to call the Catholic community to a public witness of penance by abstaining from meat on Friday. Please take up this invitation. The obligation following from this invitation is a sign of a deeper call to conversion.

If not eating meat is no sacrifice for us, then we should consider marking Friday in another additional way. Let us be prudent – if circumstances make it really difficult on occasion to refuse meat on Friday, then be sensible! The important aspect is to make sure that penance is in our lives, especially on Fridays and during Lent. Simple public acts of devotion that show we are Catholics and love our Faith can be channels of God's grace in the lives of people amongst whom we live. Every Friday points to Sunday, which is the most important day of our week. Regular worship at Sunday Mass, which then flows out into the whole week in the way we live, is at the heart of who we are as Catholics. That is how we respond to God's love for us, who loved us first, *'and sent his Son as saviour of the world'* (1 John 4:14)

That call to conversion is something the comedian Frank Skinner spoke about when he took part in a conversation with the Archbishop of Canterbury, which was subsequently broadcast on Radio Four. Skinner said that at first he thought the notion of re-introducing "Fish on Friday" was a bit bonkers. But then as he began to think about it, he found himself thinking about Jesus and reflecting on the nature of his sacrifice. Skinner, much to the amusement of the Archbishop, went on to talk about how important outward signs of religion are and how the symbolic nature of Catholicism is really powerful in helping us to give witness to our faith. So I guess its Fish on Fridays from now on!

Fr. Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 24th (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Margaret Garvey RIP (Anniv)
Sunday 25th – Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year
08.30 People of the Parish
10.00 Paschal D'Souza RIP (Anniv)
11.30 Sheila & Jack O'Brien's 50th Wedding Anniv
Monday 26th – Feria, Twenty Sixth Week of Year 1
09.30 Kath Casey (Int)
Tuesday 27th – St Vincent de Paul, Priest
09.30 Cathy Ahem RIP
Wednesday 28th – Feria
19.00 Caroline O'Flaherty RIP
Thursday 29th – SS Michael, Gabriel, Raphael
08.00 Fr. Norman Wrigley (Sick)
Friday 30th – St Jerome, Priest & Doctor
09.30 Abbie Ewen (Int)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 17.15-17.45

Please keep the sick in your prayers, especially:

Betty George, Ann Brien, Aarti Taylor, Michael Byrne
Colette Thornborough, Susan Morgan, William Graham,
Wilma Woodstock, Richard Cobb, Bob Smith, Daphne Bose,
James Lloyd, Nadia Tagliani, Lalitha Fernando, Aaron Eni,
Mary Sammon, Elizabeth Hessian, Valerie Theodore, Patrick
Casserly, Kevin Teahan, Pat Rebbitt, Benny Hoft, Pragdibaj
Patel, Shirley Norton, Jennifer Roche, Janet Francis, Judith
Cullasuk, Bronach McCann, Nelly Dyt, Suzanne Ryan, Grace
O'Shea, Jim McDonnell, Thayaparan Ratnadurai, Paddy
Nevin, Irene Letchet, Fariza Talghli, Maria McCullough, Tina
Tozzi, Bernadette Fernandes, Mary Walsh, Christopher
Price, Rathini, John Monaghan, Theresa Saldanha, Barry &
Maureen Albert, Alexandra Slavin

Pray Also for: Margaret Garvey, Paschal D'Souza, Francis
Lewandoski, Maura Moriarty, Natalia D'Silva, Sassi
Pellegrini, Raymonde Thillier, Sean Caden, Delia Mulvaney,
Keith Cullis, Agnes Van Rosse, Eileen Lynch, Bridget & James
Horkan, Mary Kane, Peter Lambie, William Rebbitt whose
anniversaries occur at this time.

Congratulations & Best Wishes David Holloway and
Samantha D'Silva who were married in our church this
weekend.

Readers and Ministers If you are going to be away during
October or November please contact Mary Evans on 8868
2884 or maryevans@rcdow.org.uk by 26th September so
that she can adjust the rotas that she is preparing.

School Admission Fr. Shaun will be available to sign school
forms for primary admission and secondary transfer on
Saturday, 8th and Saturday, 15th October at 10.30am -
12.30pm. Parents should come to the Parish Hall.

St. John Fisher School Reception 2012-2013 Applications
(children born between 1st September 2007 and 31st
August 2008). Application packs are now available for
children due to start school in 2012-2013. Forms must be
completed and returned by 13th January 2012.

UCM For forthcoming events please see notice board.

Bethany Group Meeting We are running a short training
course at the end of October/November for four weeks for
those people who visit parishioners or would like to visit
parishioners. It looks at how we can increase our listening
skills and learn how to respond appropriately Eileen Steinitz
8930 7375 for more information. Please note we do not
accept on this course anyone who has experienced a close
bereavement within the last two years.

School Open Evenings Please see Parish Notice Board for
details.

St Luke's Hospice Is holding a 'Voices for Hospices Come
and Sing' Concert on World Hospice & Palliative Care Day at
7.30pm on 8th October 2011. For details please see poster
on notice board.

Imperial Players Next Production on 10th, 11th & 12th
November at 8pm, matinee at 2.45pm on 12th. We are
putting on 2 One Act Plays by Lynn Brittney, "Have a Nice
Day" and "Motivation". Box Office 8427 9387.

Fr. Kevin Will return to the parish on Wednesday 5th
October. He will celebrate the 7.00pm Mass. Then we will
make a presentation to him. Finally we will go to the Parish
Hall for a reception. It would be great if you could bring a
plate of food to share that evening. The bar will also be
available that night. If you didn't manage to make a
donation to Fr Kevin's leaving fund, collectors will be
available after all masses over the weekend for you to do
so. Let's send Fr Kevin to Willesden with a smile!

Pilgrims Progress The October edition containing articles
and details of forthcoming events in the various churches in
North Harrow is available in the church porch.

The Passage helping homeless people There will be a
string quintet concert in aid of The Passage with music by
Haydn and Mozart at the Church of The Immaculate
Conception, Farm Street, London W1K 3AH on Monday, 3rd
October 2011 at 7.00pm. Tickets £15 from The Passage, St.
Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL, 7592
1856 or tickets@passage.org.uk.

Item Found A set of keys was found in the church car park.
Please contact Claudia on 8429 5681.

Collection Last Week Loose £570.13, Planned Giving
£822.23, Total £1392.36. Thank you for your generosity
and for supporting the work of the parish. If you are a tax
payer and would like to become a member of the Planned
Giving Scheme, please contact Mary Evans on 8868 2884 or
maryevans@rcdow.org.uk. This costs you nothing, but
enables us to claim back 22p for every pound you give to
the Parish.

Home Mission Sunday, 18th September Thank you for your
generous response to last week's appeal - £291.82 was
donated.