



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW 020 8868 7531
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)

9th October 2011 ~ 28th 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

Today's story is not just about a wedding banquet but about a royal wedding banquet. At the recent marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the newspapers were desperate to discover the invitation list. Clearly they were highly-prized and to receive one was a mark of distinction. The same does not appear to be true of this wedding. Those invited would not come even when told the menu. The guests did not make polite excuses they went out of their way to show that they had more important things to do. They insulted the king and his family and went further by killing his messengers, abusing the law of hospitality themselves. Not surprisingly the king was a little upset at this. But why?

Royal marriages often sealed political and diplomatic alliances. They were instruments of foreign policy helping to bring peace and reconciliation between those who had been enemies before. This marriage should be seen in the same way. It is given by the king for his son. The son is not otherwise important. The king seems to have issued the invitation three times. He has invited the guests, sent his servants to tell them all is prepared and then sent them out again with a list of the delicacies they will enjoy. The king has been patient and gracious. He invites his guests to share in this process of peace and reconciliation. They refuse. They do not wish to share in it and therefore oppose it.

The king then sent out more messengers and invited all of those who were willing to come. The messengers do not mention the menu again so maybe those accepted understood the purpose of the feast. They all put on their wedding garment; all except one man. Immediately on entering the banquet king's eye fell upon him. Calling him 'friend' he asked him why he was there. It is the same question Jesus asks Judas when they come to arrest him on the night of the agony: 'Friend, why are you here?' Two banquets are brought together, the banquet of the Last Supper, the passover of the Lord which brings reconciliation between humanity and God, and the banquet of the king who was also offering a banquet to promote peace and reconciliation.

Many interpretations of this parable can be offered. Some see it as a proclamation that the Gentiles will be included in the new covenant of reconciliation. Others see this story as a warning to the Church and those who think that they are numbered amongst the elect whilst failing to change their lives from the root outwards.

Fr. Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 8th October (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Noreen O'Connor (Sick)
Sunday 9th – Twenty Eighth Sunday of the Year
08.30 People of the Parish
10.00 Mary O'Donnell RIP
11.30 Bryan Cross (Anniv)
Monday 10th – Feria, Twenty Eight Week of Year 1
09.30 Pauline Fielding (Int)
Tuesday 11th – Feria
09.30 Caroline Reddyhoff RIP
Wednesday 12th – Feria
19.00 Michael McGinty (Int)
Thursday 13th – St Edward the Confessor
08.00 Gladys & Albert Smith RIP
Friday 14th – Feria
09.30 Bridget Dillon RIP
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 17.15-17.45

Please keep the sick in your prayers. A list of sick parishioners is displayed on the notice board.

Pray Also For, Bryan Cross, Edith Steinitz, Joseph McGeoghan, George Mahon, Louisa Tydda, Brigitte Ryan, Pauline Roa, Mary Smith, Marguerite Atkinson whose anniversaries occur at this time.

The Last Word It was lovely to see so many of you on Wednesday evening – thank you very much to everybody who came and contributed to both the Mass and the Party in the hall afterwards. Above all, thank you for your kind words and your great generosity towards my leaving present and the many other cards and gifts I received over the past few months. It has been a real privilege to be your Parish Priest. Thank you once again and God bless you all.

Fr. Kevin

Readers & Ministers of the Eucharist New rotas which start from 15th/16th October are now available in the Church porch. Please collect your relevant rota this weekend.

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

UCM We are having a Harvest Supper on Wednesday, 19th October. Would any members who would like to come ring Teresa Arrigo on 8427 3063 to book a place. Cost £8; bring your own drink.

Parish Women's Group Next meeting will take place on Thursday, 13th Oct at 8pm in the small hall. A professional speaker will be giving an entertaining and light-hearted talk on Body Language (cost £1). Why not join us? For further information contact Elena on 8427 3918.

Mass for the Bereaved This will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, 2nd November, the Feast of All Souls. Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served in

the Parish Hall afterwards.

CAFOD Christmas Cards & Traidcraft Catalogues This weekend we will be launching the CAFOD Christmas card range. A sample pack of all the cards will be on display, you can place orders and are welcome to take a TRAIDCRAFT catalogue to browse. We plan to be open every weekend throughout Oct & Nov. Part of the price of the cards is shared between CAFOD, Christian Aid, TRAIDCRAFT and SCiAF and, in addition, profit from the discount St. John Fisher receives is sent as a donation to CAFOD. We need extra helpers so if you can stay for a short while after mass, please e-mail sjftraidcraft@gmail.com or call 8863 1865 with your contact details and the Mass you normally attend. Next weekend the monthly TRAIDCRAFT food still will also be open.

Parish Coffee Morning Will take place next weekend after both the 10am and 11.30am Masses. All profits to the Sick & Retired Priests Fund.

St. John Fisher School Harvest Tea We would like to invite our senior neighbours to a Harvest Tea at the school on Wednesday, 12th October at 10.30am.

The Autumn Series of Small Faith Sharing Communities Begins on the weekend of 15th/16th October, and we will meet once a week for the following 6 weeks to reflect on 'the source and summit of our faith', **the Eucharist**, this may also be of interest to those parents preparing their children for the sacrament of 1st Holy Communion. The book is called "**A Foretaste of Heaven**". If you want an early copy, enquire at the sacristy. Enrolment forms are available at all Masses this weekend. All are invited to consider taking part. If you are interested, please complete a form and return it after Mass or as soon as possible or call Tony 8868 3205.

Concert for the Autumn Serenade Performed by your own Parish Singers will take place on 22nd October at 7.30pm. Music from the West End Shows. Come and enjoy. Contact Ashley on 8723 5307 or purchase your tickets after mass on 19th October. Tickets £8 (concessions £6).

St Luke's Hospice We have applied for a grant of £6,000 to fund our work supporting carers through the Nat West Community Force Scheme. The successful bids will be chosen by public vote so the more votes we get the better chance we have of winning this grant. Please vote on <http://communityforce.natwest.com/project/3835>.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 7th October Please return your envelopes today. Thank you for your support. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.

Collection Last Week Loose £617.36, Planned Giving £918.39, Total £1,535.75. 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.