



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)

16th October 2011 ~ 29th 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

The history of the Middle East, is one of conquest: from Assyria and Babylon to Persia, Macedonia, Rome, Byzantium to the dar al Islam and the Turkey of today. Empires that rise and fall, empower and subdue... and tax. The empire in charge of Jerusalem and the Jews of the first century, Rome, levied a tax that went overseas. The conquerors get paid for their oppression. In a nation that has lost its land, this is the last insult, but in Roman Palestine they must reckon with the Jewish religion. The battle against Roman oppression is *ideological*.

Regardless of the complicit paying of tax, in the Jewish religious sphere of the law of tradition that governs life, there is no demand to be met. It is simply another part of the injustice the Jews suffer as long as they are without their land, and so, impermissible. In this encounter, against Jesus are not just the Pharisees who present the ideological objection, which, as we know is a volatile foundation for opposition. But also against him in this trap are the Herodians, who support the Romans and so receive riches, power and favours. Any answer Jesus gives will be dangerous: supporter of fundamentalists or betrayer of the Jewish law? It's a question of genius and the Pharisees know it. The triumph is already palpable. Their repetition of Jesus's 'honesty' is like Mark Anthony's eulogy of Caesar in Shakespeare's play. 'Their speech is softer than butter... their tongue a naked sword' (Psalm 55.22).

But this is the real question that is thrown back. What belongs to Caesar? The answer is that nothing belongs to Caesar... anymore than anything belongs to those who barter with the very coins under dispute. This encounter is another example of how the point of God's revelation and love has been missed by us, the people he has chosen. To be God's people, to become a child of God is to be called towards the promised land of sharing God's life, not struggles of territory and taxes.

If everything belongs to God, then we have to try to understand what it is that God wants. What is it that we should offer to him. That can only be our entire self. To be remade and reformed, to be perfected in the love of our Father. Can we give ourselves and all that is ours without holding back anything? No, not without the love of God, but then, we could never do anything without him, could we.

Fr. Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 15th (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Flory D'Souza RIP

Sunday 16th – Twenty Ninth Sunday of the Year

08.30 Dennis & Veronica Joiner RIP

10.00 Gabriel Faria (Anniv)

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 17th – St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

09.30 Sheila Doran RIP

Tuesday 18th – St Luke, Evangelist

09.30 Maureen Fernando (Int)

Wednesday 19th – Feria, Twenty Ninth Week of Year 1

19.00 John Quane (Int)

Thursday 20th – Feria

08.00 Michael Kennedy (Int)

Friday 21st – Feria

09.30 Jim McDonnell (Int)

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, Gabriel Faria, Ivor Pereira, Eric Barker, Connie O'Donoghue, Katrina Phillips, Vincent Bourke, Bo Claeson, Winifred Maher, Victor Crick, Patrick Webber, Maureen Nixon and Hannah Shevlin whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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.

Mass for the Bereaved Each year in November we celebrate a Mass for those who have been bereaved in recent years. 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.

Bethany Group Meeting The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 20th October at 7.30pm in the small hall. Would all members please try to attend.

Traidcraft Food & Christmas Card Stall Open after all Masses today.

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

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 15th and 16th October. Tickets £8 (concessions £6).

St Vincent de Paul Raffle Tickets for the raffle (prizes from £50 to £3,000) will be available in the Church Porch after Sunday Masses on the weekend of 22nd/23rd October. 50p per ticket. The raffle is the main funding event for the SVP

so it is a good way of supporting those in need.

Churches Together In North Harrow On Sunday, 23rd October at 4pm at St George's Church, there will be an Organ and Piano recital by Christopher Matthews in celebration of Franz Liszt's birth 200 years ago. See flyers in Church Porch for details.

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". Tickets £7 (£5 concessions) - Box Office 8427 9387.

Towards Advent Festival Come along to the festival at Westminster Cathedral Hall on Saturday, 19th November. For more info see poster on notice board.

Westminster Vocations Discernment Group Meeting On Friday, 28th October, 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room in Morpeth Terrace for men and women (18-30's). Fr Anthony Doe will be speaking about spiritual direction. For more info contact Sr Gabi at info@free2become.org or Fr Richard at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk.

Curry Evening Fr Shaun would like to organise a curry evening for the Parish. This will take place on Friday, 18th November from 7:30pm. Could we get a group of 5-10 people together who would prepare the food, set up the hall, etc. If anybody has any suggestions for entertainment that evening we would love to hear from you. The curry evening would be a fundraiser for the Parish Building Fund and tickets will cost £10 each which includes your first drink from the bar. I'm sure we've got lots of talented cooks in the Parish so let's hear from you. You can contact Fr Shaun or Claudia on the phone numbers or email addresses given on the front of the newsletter.

Will Aid Is a special partnership between the legal profession and nine of the UK's best loved charities. Every November, local participating solicitors (E.M. Collins & Co, Pinn House, 2 High St, Pinner, 8866 1820) waive their fee for writing a basic Will and instead invite clients to make a donation to Will Aid. You may also wish to make a donation to your local parish. For more info see pamphlet on notice board.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 7th October Thank you for your generous response - £1,589.93 was donated towards CAFOD's work in the developing world. If you were away last weekend, you can still donate this weekend - envelopes in Church Porch. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.

Collection Last Week Loose £586.51, Planned Giving £898.14, Total £1,484.65. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting the work of the parish. If you are a taxpayer and would like to become a member of the Planned Giving Scheme, please contact Mary Evans on 8868 2884 or maryevans@rcdow.org.uk.