



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church  
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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 (9.30am-1.30pm, Mon-Wed-Fri)

## 12<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – Sixth Sunday of the Year B

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Most of us live somewhere in-between. The in-between can be a place of hope, where we are held in the promises of Jesus Christ, or a place of despair. The themes of hope and despair are explored in today's gospel. 'A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: "If you want to" he said "you can cure me."

### *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

The leper cannot return to his home. He lives the despair of the despised stranger, but he is not a stranger to his people. So he lives in hope that one day he will be able to return to those who he loves. This hope finds a focus in Jesus Christ, and it is this hope which will lead to his cure. Jesus, moved with compassion, reaches out and touches the leper. He makes the stranger welcome and bids him to come home.

How we long to be like Jesus here, to reach out to those who suffer; yet we hesitate. Few of us are so hardened that we turn our backs completely, yet beyond momentary awakenings our feelings lie numbed.

When the leper approaches Jesus a choice is made. Jesus chooses to touch the man, and in reaching out he knows that he will no longer be able to return to his home, to his place in the community, for although he tells the man to say nothing about the healing to anyone, from that time we are told that: 'Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived.' His exile will be completed on the cross, his bodily wounds the reminders of our lack of humanity, our failure to respond to the cries of those who suffer.

### *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

Not many of us have experienced true freedom; our commitments and responsibilities to family, Church and society shape and limit the way in which we live our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. Yet there is a deep inner freedom which Jesus Christ offers to each one of us, a freedom which is seen in the lives of his saints. The in-between we have created, the place where we are neither at home nor a stranger, the place where our feelings are numbed, is our own personal prison cell. It is sometimes that place of dark despair, but often it is carpeted with the latest in flat screen technology on the wall.

### *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

We are challenged by the gospel to reach out from our prison cell, but we find ourselves unable or unwilling to take those steps which gospel love demands. Those steps are the steps of Jesus Christ, and our only hope is to turn to him, to kneel before him and with the leper to say: 'If you want to, you can cure me.' It is through his compassion that we learn to love; we may not know how to feel anymore, but his love awakens our love, healing us and moving in a joy which we are called to share with others.

*To Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February (First Mass of Sunday)  
18.00 Mary Brennan RIP  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sixth Sunday of the Year  
08.30 Elizabeth Mukete RIP  
10.00 People of the Parish  
11.30 Winnie McDonagh (Anniv)  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Feria, Sixth Week of Year 2  
09.30 Aurora Fernandes (Anniv)  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> – SS Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop  
09.30 Lawrie Horswood RIP  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Feria  
19.00 Patsy Jones RIP  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
08.00 John Wilkinson RIP  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
09.30 Bernadette McCoy 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 at the back of the Church.**

**Recently Deceased**, Bryan Derbyshire.

**Pray Also For**, Winnie McDonagh, Aurora Fernandes, Lawrie Horswood, Patrick Hannigan, Joan Hickey, Denny Bowles, George Ransley, Nora Broderick, Fr. Jeremy D’Cruz, Kathleen Beesley, Cecilia Woodhall, David Notley, Bridget Davis, (baby) Terisa Stokes, John Duffy, Eileen Reilly, Ann Kelleher, Oswald McCarthy, Sheila Wlodarczyk, Theresa Orakwue, Agnes D’Souza, Winifred Roach and John Foley whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**St Patrick’s Night** Tickets are now available for collection. If you have changed your mind and now cannot attend please let us know as we have a waiting list.

**Social Club Bar Rota** Would those ladies/gentlemen who put their names forward for bar help please collect their rotas from the bar ASAP. Thank you.

**Churches together in North Harrow (CTNH)** Just a reminder that we would like to receive all applications to join the Lent House Groups by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. Spare forms are available in the Church Porch, or just telephone 8248 4997 or e-mail [mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk).

**‘The Pylon’ Magazine** Notice to all parish groups and organisations, the deadline for articles for ‘The Pylon’ is Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February. Articles should be emailed to [seangwhite@btinternet.com](mailto:seangwhite@btinternet.com). If anyone has any queries call Sean White on 07710 099262.

**Bethany Group** Next Meeting on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

**Pancake Evening** 7pm on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February is when St. John Fisher hosts a pancake sharing event. Around 200 pancakes are eaten. Madeleine and Angela, with help, cook and toss some in the kitchen, but to keep up with demand we prepare in advance and reheat in the oven. We need donations of pancakes or pancake mix please. Pancakes can be brought, or cooked and frozen separated by greaseproof paper. It is good fun so look forward to seeing

you. Proceeds raised from the evening go to St. Luke’s Hospice.

**Parish Theatre Group** In conjunction with St Thomas at Harrow-on-the-Hill we will be starting a Parish Theatre Group. There will be the opportunity to see a West End show once a month. Coach travel will be provided to and from the theatre. The tickets will be discounted because of group booking. Forthcoming events include Legally Blond at the Savoy Theatre 27<sup>th</sup> March, £32.50; Top Hat at the Aldwych Theatre 24<sup>th</sup> April, £42 and La Boheme at Covent Garden 14<sup>th</sup> May, £37. More details can be found in the Church Porch where booking and membership forms are available.

**Imperial Players** Next production will be “Portrait of Fear” by Edward Taylor. This play combines the elements of a ghost story with those of a murder thriller. On 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 at 8pm - NO MATINEE, Tickets £7 - No concessions. Box Office 8427 9387. If you have never been to one of our productions before please give it a try, you’ll have a pleasant evening out and tea/coffee & biscuits are included in the ticket price.

**CAFOD Talk on Tackling Poverty and Injustice in Brazil** By Tony Sheen From CAFOD on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10am in the Parish Centre of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Botwell House, Botwell Lane, Hayes, UB3 2AB. Tony will share stories from Brazil of inspirational people who are changing the lives of families living in favelas and are standing up for the rights of indigenous communities. The meeting will be hosted by the West London Justice and Peace Network. All are welcome.

**Archbishop’s Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** On Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 at 3pm at Westminster Cathedral. The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 60<sup>th</sup>+ wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2012. If you qualify, please contact Claudia on [claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk) or 8429 5681 by 24<sup>th</sup> February with the following details: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or telephone number if no e-mail).

**Catholic Singles** Is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit [www.catholicsingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicsingles.org.uk) or e-mail [info@catholicsingles.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicsingles.org.uk).

**Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** Under the Leadership of Archbishop Vincent Nichols from 22<sup>nd</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. This year the theme is ‘With Bernadette, praying the Rosary’. Please see poster on notice board and brochures with booking forms at the back of the Church.

**Parish Finances for January** Total income £14,197.55, total expenditure £11,879.66.