



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)

3rd February 2013 ~ Fourth Sunday of the Year C

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

And just as it was starting to go so well! He had returned among them in triumph – a local hero. They marvelled at the wonderful things he said among them. He was one of their own, he grew up among them and they knew his background. He shared their ups and downs, laughed with them; he was involved in the different aspects of their lives. Now he spoke with eloquence and graciousness. They could be rightly proud, a people who had raised such a man.

But what happens when the blessing of God doesn't quite fit in with our own plans? At least, not in the way we'd like. We want to have a close relationship with God. We want to feel his blessing – of course we do! But all very much on our own terms. In a very small way, the townsfolk in the Gospel represent the whole of human history – rejecting God at the moment when his plan for us leads us in a direction we'd rather not travel.

He was one of their own, and they were more than happy to go along with him for a time. How often this happens in the life of Jesus – that people follow him and then go off in a different direction when things don't suit. We come to him in the hope that he will fulfil our needs and realise our dreams. We're not sure if we have much time for him if he doesn't. But then, it's hard for us to recognise what our real needs are. It seems almost impossible for us to rejoice completely in God's love. Perhaps this is because we always want to keep something back for ourselves, to retain some control over our lives rather than suffering the indignity of 'surrender' to something else. Yet nothing we might cling to will serve us better than the complete freedom that God's love offers us.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 2nd February (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Knights of St. Columba's Intention – please see below

Sunday 3rd – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

08.30 Joan Olive RIP

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Dominic Fernandes RIP, Albert & Louisa Fernandes RIP

Monday 4th – Feria, Fourth Week of Year 1

09.30 Mike Scully RIP

Tuesday 5th – St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP

Wednesday 6th – St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

19.00 Rasiah Albert RIP

Thursday 7th – Feria

09.30 Catherine, Jack & PJ Moran RIP

Friday 8th – Feria

09.30 Greta Murray (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 at the back of the Church.

Recently Deceased, Agnes O'Sullivan, Daniel Dhar, Ron Hosking.

Pray Also For, Catherine Dias, Marguerite Rogers, Mabel Morgan, Jack Hurst, Stan Phillips, Joseph Rajakarier, Daniel Emmanuel, Guy Verrier, Emily Jukes, David Lavelle, Martina Mulvaney, Peter Sullivan, Daisy Rowland, Robert O'Beirne, Neil Browne, Joe Donoghue and Patricia Martin whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Krish Bhatia, Imogen Cull, James McCarthy and Priya Rajendra who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Knights of St Columba's Mass Intention "That our politicians heed the message of Faith, to uphold human life from conception to the grave and defend the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman."

Ron Hosking RIP His funeral will take place on Wednesday, 6th February 2013 at 11am at St Mary & St Augustine, 13 Broad Street, Stamford, PE9 1PG.

Bishop's Visitation Bishop John Arnold will be making a formal visitation to the parish on Sunday, 10th February. Because of his schedule the bishop can only spend one day with us. He will preside at all the Masses that day and he asked to meet with the Parish Council. If you have any concerns that you would like raised with the bishop please contact Brian Morahan, brian.n.morahan@hsbc.com or use the suggestion box in the Church porch. Please remember to add your name and contact details to your enquiry, otherwise your issue cannot be dealt with.

Year of Faith During Lent there will be an opportunity to explore the themes of the Year of Faith at Parishes throughout the deanery. The talks start at 8pm. Please try to make this part of your Lenten commitment this year. Details as follows:

Wednesday, 20th February 2013 - St Theresa's Church, 22 Boniface Walk, Headstone Lane, HA3 6PU **"Who are you Lord?" –Thinking about Jesus.**

Wednesday, 27th February 2013 - St Luke's Parish Centre, Love Lane, Pinner, HA5 3EX **An Outward Sign of an Inward Grace - Sacraments and The Church.**

Wednesday, 6th March 2013 - St John Fisher, Parish Centre, Imperial Drive, North Harrow, HA2 7LW **Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll and the Love of God - Living a Christian Life.**

Wednesday, 13th March 2013 - St Anselm's Parish Centre, Roxborough Park, HA1 3BE **Raising the Heart and Mind - Tips for a Healthy Prayer Life.**

Readers & Ministers Rotas Ready for collection in the Church porch.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Monday, 4th February 2013 at 8pm in the Social Club.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) The meeting on 6th February will be a talk by Fr. Anthony Pellegrini with a bit of a social so can everyone please bring a little plate of something.

Parish Women's Group The PWG is a small friendly group who get together once a month (Thursdays 8pm) to enjoy various events in the church hall and local visits. Please feel free to join us on our next venture, on Thursday 7th February at 8pm, to Twist, the ice-cream and dessert lounge, in North Harrow. If you would like any further information please call Mary on 07790 757570.

Valentine Coffee Morning Come and support our coffee morning on Sunday, 10th February after the 10am and 11.30am Masses. All proceeds towards the restoration of our Church. Raffle tickets on sale after both Masses.

St John Fisher Social Club AGM Today at 7.30pm in the small hall.

Pancake Evening February 12th is Shrove Tuesday. Here at St. John Fisher we cook and serve pancakes for us and members of our neighbouring churches. We need pancakes and pancake mix please. Homemade pancakes can be made in advance and frozen with a slip of greaseproof paper between each pancake. Contributions of pancakes can be brought to the small hall from 6.30pm on the evening. Cooking and serving is from 7.00-8.30pm, do come and help cook and eat or just eat and chat. Donations go to St. Luke's Hospice. It begins the series of fund raising for St. Luke's in which each of our local churches has a lunch on one Saturday in Lent for this purpose. There will be a notice in this newsletter showing where the lunch is on each of the following Saturdays. In 2012 over £1,700 was raised by this combined effort.

St Patrick's Night If you would like a St Patrick's night celebration in the parish this year Fr Shaun invites you to meet with him in the Small Hall on Monday, 11th February at 7.30pm. We need people to help with setting up, clearing and cooking. Tickets will be £15 for an adult and £7.50 for a child. Adult tickets include your first drink. Soft drinks will be available for children. As St Patrick's night falls on Sunday this year it is suggested that we have our celebration on Friday, 15th March.

In the Footsteps of St Paul A retreat day for men (18+) discerning a possible calling to the priesthood on Saturday, 9th February at Allen Hall seminary. This is the first of a series of study/retreat days during the Year of Faith, and will focus on the life and mission of St Paul. For more info and to register contact Fr Richard Nesbitt at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk.

Year of Faith - Faith Matter Series of Talks for Lent 2013 Public Lectures on Celebration of Faith: Sacraments, Redeeming Beauty at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, SW1P 1QH. For more info please see poster in Church porch.