



## St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531

[www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk](http://www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Middleton, 020 8429 5684, [shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Catechist: Kay O'Connor, 020 8429 5682, [kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh, 020 8429 5681, [claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk) (9.30am–1.30pm, Mon-Wed-Fri)

### 13<sup>th</sup> January 2013 ~ The Baptism of the Lord

#### *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

In the world Jesus grew up in, being a child of God was understood very differently. Being someone's child – especially the first-born son – meant inheriting what your father had. So to be God's child means that we inherit what God has – what He is, indeed. This comes out very clearly in today's Gospel. Jesus' Heavenly Father sends down the Holy Spirit on him at his baptism, a sign that 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' So Jesus receives everything the Father has and is.

And what is true of Jesus is true of us, his adopted brothers and sisters by grace. When we were baptised, we were anointed not as useless, but as priest, prophet and King. Most of us were anointed as babies, so as we grew physically, we could be expected to grow into these three great roles by the grace of the Holy Spirit, to share in God's nature.

So do we just need to 'grow up'? God is not as harsh as this. Many people put on a shiny face every morning but are struggling to cope. They have wounds that have not been healed – and may not know where to turn for healing. God comes to console a broken and wounded people. In comparing them with sheep, Isaiah is not making them out to be useless: sheep are curious, and this curiosity is sometimes misplaced and leads them to get lost and trapped. Like us.

The Scriptural word for salvation also means healing. God comes to heal us. It may be, that when we enter God's house, we at last find a space where we can just be where we are in our lives at that moment. We can own the broken and wounded part of us. That may mean that we suddenly feel unable to cope. God's house, the community which is the Body of Christ, is a place where it's OK not to be OK – provided we're willing to let God heal us and raise us up. In the Christian faith, Jesus offers us something much better than a prop. He offers us a transforming share in God's nature, so that we can be a priest, prophet and king – the person who is truly us, the person beyond our wildest dreams.

*Fr Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Thomas & Kate Regan (Anniv)

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

08.30 Allen Morgan (Anniv)

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Dominic Fernandes RIP

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Feria, First Week of Year 1

09.30 Marion King RIP

**19.00 Reception Service for Wyn Bowker RIP**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Feria

09.30 John & Nora Riordan (Anniv)

**11.30 Funeral of Wyn Bowker RIP**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Feria

19.00 Kevin Cosgrove RIP

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – St Anthony, Abbot

09.30 Luke Lambe RIP

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Feria

09.30 Margaret Mary Duff 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**, Cyril Taylor.

**Pray Also For**, Thomas & Kate Regan, Allen Morgan, John & Nora Riordan, John Slavin, George Rolt, Marguerite Dalglish, Jane Hubert, Jesuthasan Daniel, Ian Scott, Loretta Souza, Graham Cooke, Freda Glynn, John McGovern, Ron Press, Ellen Deely, Nora Mackie, Larry Gibbons, Julia Moran, Flora Buhagiar, William Quinn and John Twomey whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Break-In** Sadly we had another break-in in the Parish Bar this week. We will have to take further additional security measures in the coming weeks - obviously this will be an added expense this year but we really do have no alternative. After taking advice from the police, we have been advised not to put any reference to Parish income in the newsletter. Therefore, full Parish accounts will be made available annually, however, if anybody would like to see the accounts more frequently we are more than happy for them to do so. Please make an appointment with the Parish accountant.

**Mass Intentions** Up until now a system has been in operation whereby masses have been booked in for deceased relatives of parishioners automatically. Unfortunately, this has meant that on a number of occasions a particular Mass time has not been available for other people in the parish. From January 2013 it will be up to individuals to book a given anniversary Mass for their deceased loved ones, as this will no longer happen automatically via the Parish office. We hope that this will prove to be a more equitable system.

**Year of Faith** The next faith sharing session led by Fr. Shaun will take place in the small hall at St John Fisher School on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30-3.30pm. This time we will be asking, "What does it mean to belong to the Church?"

**St. John Fisher Catholic Diaries 2013** Now available in the Church porch. Suggested donation £1. Please put money in 'Papers' box.

**Fairtrade Stall** In the porch after all Masses next weekend.

**Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)** Next meeting on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January – please bring your wedding photos. The meeting on

6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St John Fisher** On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 8.00- 8.30pm. This year the prayer for Christian Unity focuses on the many Indian Christians who are suffering oppression and injustice. Gather to pray for the unity which Christ wills for his Church and for Justice, Liberation and the breaking of barriers between people. Each day during this week the Christian Churches in our community will walk in prayer with the persecuted Indian Christians and all who yearn for justice as our Prayer for Christian Unity. For details of places and times please see the Notice in the porch and the January edition of 'Pilgrims Progress'. Light Refreshments in the Church Hall after the Service.

**St John Fisher Social Club** Membership subscriptions are now due and can be renewed during club opening hours. Please note our AGM is on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

**St. John Fisher Church Theatre Group** Please see notice in the porch for latest information on future Theatre events and transport details.

**Christmas Flower Collection** £293.43 was collected. Many thanks for your contribution.

**Vocations Discernment Group** for young adults (18-30's) Next meeting on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, with a talk by Mgr Christopher Brooks on Jonah. This is part of the "Figures of Faith in the Bible" series for the Year of Faith. For info contact Sr Gabi at [info@free2become.org](mailto:info@free2become.org).

**All Night Vigil in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes** The second in a series of four Vigils being held during the Year of Faith to celebrate Mary's place in the history of salvation on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February at Church of Our Lady, 54 Lodge Rd, St John's Wood, NW8 8LA. Exposition at 10pm, Mass at 11pm, followed by devotions and liturgies ending with Mass at 6am.

**Catholic Parliamentary & Public Policy Internships** For the last 10 years the Catholics Bishops Conference has organised parliamentary and Public Policy Internships for recently graduated Catholics. This year we are offering 6 internships: 3 interns to be placed with Christian MPs at Westminster, 2 in public policy with CAFOD and one in media in Archbishop's House Westminster. Internships will run from September 2013 - July 2014, incl. accommodation and subsistence allowances. Details and application form at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/catholic-internships>. Email completed application forms to [interns@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:interns@cbcew.org.uk) or post to Michaela Kelly, Head of HR, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX. Closing date is 9am on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and Assessment days on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

**Archbishop's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** On Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 3pm, 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 2013. 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).

**New Year's Evening** £500 was raised which will be used to replace the hall lights in the Parish Centre. Many thanks to everyone who made it such a success.