



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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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 (9.30am–1.30pm, Mon-Wed-Fri)

17th February 2013 ~ First Sunday of Lent 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

During Lent we are asked to concentrate on three things. Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. We concentrate on these issues so as to try and think about what is lacking in our lives. In other words, the things that separate us from God, one another and ourselves. Such separation is commonly referred to as sin.

Sin renders us blind and insensitive; sin stops us from being truly free. When sin gets into the system, when our whole way of thinking is touched by it, we can find ourselves almost sleepwalking into sin, shoring up the patterns of sin. We can find ourselves almost sleepwalking into hurting others and hurting ourselves, thoughtlessly, committing all those acts of petty cruelty and betrayal, that despite their banality and carelessness leave a trail of hurt and damage in their wake.

Most of the temptations we face are probably fairly minor. It is important not to exaggerate, and it is important to recognise too that our desires seek things that are genuinely good. We must try to avoid being overly scrupulous and anxious, which can be harmful. But we must try to avoid being complacent, which can also be harmful, for we might all too easily find ourselves sleepwalking into sin, into doing all sorts of things that separate us from God, ourselves and others.

In today's gospel Christ is being tempted by Satan. However, this story is meant to give us hope and to show us something about what it is to be truly happy. Jesus resists the temptation to turn stones into bread; but this is the same Jesus who eats and who drinks with his disciples. Perhaps one lesson to draw from this is that it is only the one who can eat his food with self-control and without greed who can enjoy it fully. Greedy people are too busy thinking about what they do not have to enjoy what they already possess.

Sin is a complex business that stops us from living as we ought, and so Lent is a wonderful opportunity to ask ourselves hard but realistic questions about true human happiness, questions that involve reflecting on the role of sin in our lives. To take up this opportunity is to ask if we have been sleepwalking through life, sleepwalking into patterns of sin and destruction, perhaps not so much out of active malice or greed, but almost carelessly, unthinkingly, almost like losing a bunch of keys through lack of thought and care.

Lent is therefore an invitation to open our eyes so that we can by the grace of God say yes to life and to love, the precious gifts God offers us but Satan never even mentions.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 16th February (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Peter Kennedy RIP, Breda Hoft (Anniv)

Sunday 17th – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 Patricia Rebbitt (Anniv)

10.00 Joan Olive RIP

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 18th – Lent feria

09.30 Private Intention of Mrs. Lynch

Tuesday 19th – Lent feria

09.30 Mary-Ann McGinty RIP

Wednesday 20th – Lent feria

19.00 Angela Clusker (Anniv)

Thursday 21st – Lent feria

09.30 Peter Maher – Get Well

Friday 22nd – THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

09.30 Jack & Bruno Gaffney (Anniv)

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, Bernard Hickin, Ellen Bebbington, George Thompson.

Pray Also For, Breda Hoft, Patricia Rebbitt, Angela Clusker, Jack & Bruno Gaffney, Oswald McCarthy, Sheila Wlodarczyk, Theresa Orakwue, Agnes D'Souza, Winifred Roach, John Foley, Gabriel Dias, Lil Cawley, Joan Chan, Delia Burke, Francis Roberts, Thomas Martin, Margaret Caden, Joe Reilly, Aristides Cordoba, Kitty Tully, John Noble and Patrick Kilcoyne whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Bernard Hickin who has died. His funeral will take place at St John Fisher Church on Thursday, 21st February at 11am followed by burial at Pinner New Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends.

Stations of the Cross Will take place on Fridays of Lent after morning Mass. We need four volunteers to help lead the Stations, there is a sign up sheet and various copies of the Stations in the Sacristy. Thank you for your help.

Year of Faith The next faith sharing session led by Fr. Shaun will take place in the Parish Hall at St John Fisher Church (**please note change of venue**) on Friday, 22nd February at 2.30-3.30pm. The topic we will discuss this time is "Relating to God".

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 will start at 8pm. This is a tremendous opportunity to explore the faith and to meet with fellow Catholics. Please try to make this part of your Lenten commitment this year. All are welcome.

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.**

Churches Together Lent Talks Our Churches Together has a series of talks on Tuesday evenings during Lent. The first talk is at St Alban's Church on Tuesday, 19th February at 8pm- 9.45pm, and is entitled "How Much Trouble?" Each talk is £3 or season ticket all 5 talks £12. Refreshments are included.

Lent Lunch in aid of St. Luke's Hospice Next Saturday, 23rd February at 12.30-2pm at North Harrow Methodist Church, Pinner Road.

Thank you! The CAFOD donation from the profit on sales of Christmas cards and Traidcraft gifts came to £254. This is in addition to the share of the card price that goes to CAFOD, Christian Aid, SCiAF and Traidcraft. Thank you to all who supported the stall.

The Traidcraft Food Stall Will be open after all masses on 23rd & 24th February. We will have the 'Real Easter Egg' on sale, a Fairtrade chocolate egg with an activity & sticker pack explaining the Easter story. The spring Traidcraft catalogue is now out so please borrow a copy from the stall and return your order form on 2nd/3rd March. Alternatively, go to www.traidcraftshop.co.uk and email your order to sjfracraft@gmail.com by 3rd March.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Please note there will be no meeting on 20th February

Palm Crosses Please come and help the UCM make crosses from the palm leaves in the small hall at 2pm on Thursday, 21st March. Bring a pair of scissors.

Bethany Group Next meeting on Thursday, 21st February, 7.30pm in the small hall.

SVP National Raffle Results can be found on the notice board.

Churches Together in North Harrow – Easter Greetings Cards Our local churches are again working together this Lent to deliver the cards to all the houses in the neighbourhood. If you can help please call 8248 4997 and leave a message or email mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk. The cards will be available from 9th March and we aim to deliver asap before Palm Sunday.

Women's World Day of Prayer This global day of prayer is open to everyone and always takes place on the 1st Friday in March. This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of France. It is entitled 'I was a Stranger and you Welcomed me'. The host church in North Harrow is St Alban's in The Ridgeway at 1.30pm, followed by afternoon tea.

St Patrick's Night Thank you to all those who attended the planning meeting. The parish St Patrick's night celebration will take place on **Saturday, 16th March at 7.30pm**. Adult tickets cost £15, this includes your first drink and tickets for children under 12 years of age cost £7.50. Your ticket includes a three course meal, soft drinks for the children and entertainment. If you would like to come along please order your tickets by filling out the sign up sheets that are in the porch. Do remember to put your contact number down as well as your name.

Coffee Morning With many, many thanks to all for the wonderful support at the recent coffee morning - it was good to see so many familiar and new faces. Let's do it all again on Sunday, 24th March with an Easter theme. Once again, from all the team, thank you.