



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531
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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)

20th January 2013 ~ Second 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

The miracle of the transformation of the water into wine at Cana is called the first of the signs. The servants alone would know that this wine had seemed to come from nowhere. Not entirely from nowhere, since it had been water and one thing the Christ never does is to cause things to pop into existence. He came to redeem and transform creation and so his miracles are always a restoration or a transformation of something which already existed. In fact to simply create new things would be to cast doubt on the fundamental goodness of God's creation.

But commentators have puzzled over how a sign which hardly anyone noticed could be a sign. How did it reveal the glory of Jesus? I think we need to ask who the sign was for. The passage ends by saying that the disciples believed in him, so we could say that the sign was for them. We could say that the sign was for the servants who knew where the wine came from. This is true but it is also true that the servants were part of the sign. The whole miracle of Cana was not that water changed into wine but that servants should be instruments of the changing by Jesus of water into wine. There are many miracles recorded in the Gospels which Jesus carries out on his own but this miracle, like the miracles of the multiplication of loaves and fishes, is a miracle which requires the co-operation of others.

It helps us to understand why the Eucharist is not, as some would have it, a magical rite. The magician seeks to control reality, to be its master. The Eucharist is an act of service. If the Eucharist were magic, the presiding priest would be in control of the elements. Instead, like the servants at Cana, the priest is himself one of the elements of the miracle, along with the bread and wine, placing himself under the power of God. There used to be a rite of ordination, where the ends of the stole were wrapped over one another by the Bishop, who would say, "Receive the yoke of the Lord, for His yoke is sweet and His burden is light." The Greek word for servant gives us the modern word, 'deacon', and no-one becomes a priest who has not first been a deacon. This miracle was the first sign because it teaches us the first lesson. If you want to see miracles, you must serve.

Fr. Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 19th January (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Eugenia Sulikowski (Anniv), Joseph Sulikowski RIP & Irene Waldslaawa RIP

Sunday 20th – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Elsa Dias (Anniv)

11.30 Elizabeth Ebude Mukete (Anniv)

Monday 21st – St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

09.30 Samaraweera Subasinghe (Anniv)

Tuesday 22nd – Feria, Second Week of Year 1

09.30 Eileen Power (Anniv)

Wednesday 23rd – Feria

19.00 William Enwright (Anniv)

Thursday 24th – St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor

09.30 Sandy Grove RIP

Friday 25th – THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

09.30 Dominic Faleiro 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, Clement Onwuachu.

Pray Also For, Eugenia Sulikowski, Elsa Dias, Elizabeth Ebude Mukete, Samaraweera Subasinghe, Eileen Power, William Enwright, Bridget Walsh, Kitty O'Connor, Annette Motley, Ariti Papson, Ida Buhaghiar, Edris Morris, Herbert Green, James Horkan, Denise Mitchell, Henry Kobus, Winifred Barnes, Daisy Rolt and Thomas O'Donaghue whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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, 25th 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 this weekend.

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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St John Fisher On Monday 21st 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, 3rd February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

Spanish Conversation Would you like to practice your Spanish under the guidance of a native Spanish speaker, in a relaxed, informal atmosphere? We will be starting a Spanish conversation hour between 8.00 and 9.00pm on Friday evenings, in the social club bar. Please contact John Cousins on 88666845 if you would like to join us.

New Year's Resolution - Volunteer for CAFOD Have you ever wanted to learn about the Church's practical response to poverty and injustice in the developing world? There are opportunities for you to support this here in the Westminster Diocese as a CAFOD volunteer. To find out more, book a place on our next "Understanding CAFOD" training day on Saturday, 26th January. Contact CAFOD on 8449 6970 or westminster@cafod.org.uk.

An evening of prayer for the intercession of the Holy Family Will be held on Monday, 28th January 2013 from 6-9pm at the Church of the Transfiguration, Chamberlayne Road, Kensal Rise, NW10 3HT. 6pm - Eucharistic adoration, 7pm - Holy Mass, Prayers for the unborn, opposition to the same-sex marriage bill, Rosary, talk, Divine Mercy chaplet, Stations of the Cross. All are welcome but if you are unable to come, please join us in prayer on this most important issue.

"Becoming Gift" is a retreat day for women (aged 18-40) discerning a calling to consecrated life with talks, discussion and prayer. It will be held at St Aloysius Church, Somers Town near Euston on Saturday, 2nd February 2013. For more info and to register contact Fr Richard at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk.

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, 8th 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.

Archbishop's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony On Saturday, 18th May 2013 at 3pm, Westminster Cathedral. The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2013. If you qualify, please contact Claudia on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 8429 5681 by 24th 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).

St Dominic's Alumni & Community Choir You are invited to join the St Dominic's Alumni & Community Choir. The choir is open to all ages (members currently aged from 16-75) and both music readers and non-readers are welcome. We rehearse every Wednesday in term time from 6-7.30pm in the music room at St Dominic's (Mount Park Avenue, Harrow-on-the-Hill, HA1 3HX). For more info please see poster in Church porch. If you are interested please contact Abigail Gorton, Head of Music at St Dominic's on 020 8422 8084 ext.614 or ajg@stdoms.ac.uk.

Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) Crib Appeal 2012 £1,017.97 was raised. Many thanks for your generosity.