



## 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)

## 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013 ~ The Ascension 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

Imagination can play an important part in our life of faith, in fact it may even be regarded as an essential part. How else can we begin to grasp the idea of Christ's Ascension into heaven?

When the disciples first heard Jesus, before his death, speaking of leaving them in John's gospel (16: 16-20) it caused great anxiety and puzzlement. *"What does he mean? A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while and you will see me?"* Then in Luke's Acts of the Apostles, (post Resurrection), they are still puzzled (Acts 1: 6-9), and ask him if the

time has come for Israel's Kingdom to be restored, and the yoke of Roman occupation ended. Jesus' reply leaves them none the wiser: *"It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."*

The disciples must have been even more confused. The reality of Jesus' presence is to be replaced with the unreality of his absence. It is a sort of bereavement.

The absence of loved ones, whether caused by death or various forms of family 'separation', can leave a huge void in human life, requiring a mental effort of intellect, including imagination, to help us cope with a difficult situation. And so it was for the Apostles, until the first Pentecost.

When the Scriptures record Jesus' return to the Father at the Ascension, it is, you might say, a celebration of separation and anticipation - and even imagination!

*"Unless I go, the Advocate will not come to you ...but if I do go, I will send him to you",* (Jn.16:7) Not only must we believe in the necessity of Christ's return to the Father, but we also need to recognise the need for the essential "gift of the Holy Spirit" in our lives... to give us the power we need to be true witnesses to Christ in the world. In order to send the Holy Spirit into our world, Christ tells his followers that he must return to the Father.

So the message of Christ's Ascension into heaven and the promise he gives us that he will come again, tests our powers of imagination, while at the same time assuring us of the power given to each one of us by the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and in our Baptism and Confirmation. It is this spiritual power that provides us with the energy to proclaim Jesus as the Christ, truly risen from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father.



*Fr. Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

08.30 Agnes O'Sullivan RIP

10.00 Thomas Joseph O'Reilly (Anniv)

11.30 In Thanksgiving - Michael & Deirdre Deely (50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Easter Feria

09.30 Bertie Pillai RIP

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> – ST MATTHIAS, Apostle

09.30 Seamus Browne RIP

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Easter Feria

19.00 Nora Molloy (Anniv)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – Easter Feria

09.30 Mr & Mrs Augustine; Thambipillai; Stanley & Benita (Int)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Easter Feria

09.30 Rita Rebello 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**, Greta Holton, Mrs. Barrett, John Roycroft, Yenamo Branco.

**Pray Also For**, Thomas Joseph O'Reilly, Nora Molloy, Nelly Ougan, Angela Cawley, Brian Tunnacliffe, Germain Tse Kwong Pin, Angela Castagna, Jim Morawski, Thomas Durkin, William Irwing, Carl Johns, James Moreland, Eugene Murray and Anne Griffin whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**First Holy Communion** Please keep in your prayers the second group of children who are making their First Holy Communion this weekend.

**Please Remember** Herbert Hoffmann who has died. His funeral will take place at St John Fisher Church on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30am followed by burial at Carpenders Park Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends.

**International Day** Once again this year the school and parish will work together to provide an International Day. This will take place at St John Fisher School, Melrose Road, HA5 5RA, on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, The Feast of St John Fisher, from 11am to 3pm. Could you please help with the following donations: Jolly Jars, Bric-a-Brac, Teddies, Toys - in good condition, Books, Posh Bags, Drinks for tombola. You can drop these off in the Church porch or the sacristy. We are also looking for donors for major raffle prizes, so far the top prize is £350, if you could help with this please contact Monica Gaffney [monica.gaffney@btinternet.com](mailto:monica.gaffney@btinternet.com).

Would parishioners be willing to sell raffle tickets for the International Day after Mass on the weekend of 8/9<sup>th</sup> June? Again, please contact Fr Shaun, [shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk) or Monica, at the address given above if you are able to help.

Do you work in a company that operates a £4E giving scheme? If you do and your company would like to support the school and parish, which are both registered charities, then please contact Monica. If you would you be prepared to have an advertising sign from Robertson Philips in your Garden to advertise the day or if you would like to take out a half page ad (£20) or a full page ad (£40) in the International Day Programme then again contact Monica. There are also a number of Sole Trader stalls that are available on the day for a hire fee of £25.

**International Kitchen** In the porch you will find sign-up sheets for the International Kitchen. This is very popular and only works with your help, so please do get involved and share some of your home and culture with the parish. If people could spare half an hour on the day to help serve in the kitchen that would be fantastic - there is a separate sheet for this.

As for all you cake makers out there, please get baking, we need your help to provide cakes for the cake stall and for the tea and coffee stall. This is a real parish and school effort, it is about working together and supporting each other so we hope that everyone can get involved, give some time and attend the International Day.

**Growing in Faith** Team meeting will take place on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm in the Small Hall.

**Readers & Ministers Rotas** Please collect from Church porch.

**Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)** Next meeting on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May after mass. A film will be shown.

**Harrow Foodbank** In just over 3 weeks Harrow Foodbank will open and, obviously, what we need is food! So, we would be most grateful if when you do your shopping this week you could buy one or two additional items, as shown in the leaflets in the benches, and bring them to St John Fisher next week.

**Children's Creative Writing Competition - "The Pylon" Summer edition** If you are 12 years old or under and enjoy writing, why not enter this competition? The winner will receive a £10 Smith's gift token, the runner up a consolation prize. Both will have their work published in the magazine. The theme this time is SUMMER. You can write either a story, poem, description or piece of flash fiction. **This must be your own original work.** Make sure your first and surname, plus **your age** and a contact number are at the bottom of the work. E-mail your entries to [barbaratowell@sky.com](mailto:barbaratowell@sky.com) or place your work in my pigeon hole - Barbara Towell. All entries must be received by **31<sup>st</sup> May 2013**.

**Zumba Fitness Classes at St. John Fisher Church** Hi, I am Meg and I love to teach Zumba. The reason is simple: Every class feels like a party! Come and join me and you will see what I mean. I am a licensed ZUMBA Instructor and would like to invite you to start this great adventure of ZUMBA with me. My classes will be available from **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)** and thereafter every Monday at 7-8pm in the Parish Hall. Cost £6. Please contact me at [zumba\\_megsclasses313@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zumba_megsclasses313@yahoo.co.uk); you can also follow me on Facebook/Twitter (Meg Zumba) or at [www.zumba.com](http://www.zumba.com). I look forward to meeting you! *Meg*

**Keyboard lessons** If there is anybody in the Parish who is willing to give lessons to someone who already knows the basics, please contact Hilda at [hrjoseph@btinternet.com](mailto:hrjoseph@btinternet.com) or call 07866 506788.

**Priest's Training Fund** Thank you for helping the Priest's Training Fund. £2,330.03 has been raised by this Parish. Brilliant!

**The Spiritans – Mission Appeal** £1,732.12 has been raised by this Parish. Thank you very much for your support.