



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)

30th June 2013 ~ Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

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 today's gospel Peter is not presented as a profound or subtle thinker; he does not have the rabbinical training of Paul: he was a man of simple loyalty and stubborn faith in Jesus. He is given this nickname of the Rock and Matthew has Jesus tease him with it; after all, we know that in the darkness of Christ's suffering and death he is going to be anything but rock-like. Jesus knows that too — he foretells it — and yet he says: this is the kind of rock I want my church built on, a rock of simple faith.

Jesus is delighted by Peter's profession of faith because he sees the work of the Father in Peter. It is a truth that can only be revealed by the Father whose Son he is. This is not the sort of truth that anyone could work out by natural means, by what Jesus calls flesh and blood. No amount of historical investigation, no amount of close textual analysis of the New Testament, no amount of hard, critical thinking could ever, by itself, tell you that Jesus is the Son of God. Only the gift of faith will give this insight into the meaning of the life and death of Jesus. It's the faith of Peter and it's the faith of the Church.

However, Peter cannot accept that Jesus will also suffer many things and be killed. So Jesus rebukes him as he rebuked the devil in the desert: "Get behind me Satan!" Peter is tempting him to betray his mission. A rock is not only a firm foundation, it can also be an obstacle and something to trip over.

Matthew is showing us, in Peter, the man that will three times disown Jesus: and Matthew's message is: This is what the Church is like: this is what we are like. We are reluctant to accept that to be son of God is to be a suffering, defeated son of man. Everyone who follows Jesus, everyone that follows the path of being human, and Peter, for all of his rock-like faith, has yet to learn this. Indeed the Church has continually to re-learn it, as we each have to re-learn it every day, however rock-solid we are in our faith. The Church, for Matthew, is not an ideal and heroic community of superior people: she is full of failures continually in need of God's forgiveness. The Church is not just other-Christ, but other betrayers of Christ. But, it is amongst these failures and betrayals that we see the Son of man coming in his Kingdom.

Or as St Paul puts it, "We preach Christ crucified... the power of God and the wisdom of God: for the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Fr. Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 29th June (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Jim Delahunty (Anniv)

Sunday 30th – **STS PETER AND PAUL, Apostles**

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Robin Andrew Shortland (Anniv)

11.30 Alice Hegarty RIP

Monday 1st July – DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL

09.30 Paul Cleland (Sick)

Tuesday 2nd – Feria, Thirteenth Week of Year 1

09.30 Christine Kilker (4th Anniv)

Wednesday 3rd – ST THOMAS, Apostle

19.00 Dorothy Downs RIP

Thursday 4th – Feria

09.30 Anton Regis (17th Anniv)

Friday 5th – Feria

09.30 Marie Gallagher (Int)

10.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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, James Carney, Elizabeth Martin, David Parker.

Pray Also For, Jim Delahunty, Robin Andrew Shortland, Christine Kilker, Anton Regis, Veridiana D'Silva, William Wright, John Dellamura, Kevin Nolan, Annie Fernandes, Bernard Harris, Julie Goulding, Sean Rynne, Maria Kowalewicz, Mary McWilliams, Mary Malone, Muriel O'Connor, John Rossington, Margaret Burton, Constance Donnelly, Agnes Cunningham, Cyril Fernandes and Mavis Furnell whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Growing in Faith Thanks to the generous participation of many parishioners here at St John Fisher the **Growing in Faith** campaign continues to receive an important support. We are happy to let you know that our parish has already raised pledges of more than £220,000 towards our goal of £350,000. To be truly successful we need everyone to consider a gift or pledge which is right for them. We encourage you to consider spreading your commitment over a period of five years. If circumstances change, you can increase, decrease, pause or cancel your pledge at any time.

This week, our volunteers have continued making phone calls, as we are aiming to contact everyone in our parish. Volunteers are also available after all Masses this weekend, to answer your questions or to give you or accept a pledge form. I encourage you to please complete your pledge card after Mass today and place it in the box at the back of the church.

We plan to complete our active fundraising efforts next weekend with a Commitment Weekend at all Masses. Our goal has been to receive an informed decision from everyone in the parish, however, those we were unable to reach but who still wish to support **Growing in Faith** will have the opportunity to let their intentions known next weekend.

Finally, please know that praying for the success of the campaign is just as important as considering your decision about making a pledge. Not everyone will support **Growing in Faith** and we wouldn't expect this. However, we want to invite everyone to join at a level appropriate for you. Thank you to all of you for your help and support, *Fr. Shaun*

Growing in Faith Team Meeting There will be no meeting on Monday, 1st July. Our final meeting will take place on Monday, 8th July at 8pm in the Small Hall.

Confirmation 2014 Application forms are available for anyone currently in School Year 8 or above who would like to be confirmed in 2014. See Kay after Mass, incl. Saturday Evening.

First Holy Communion & Reconciliation 2014 Application forms are available for parents of children currently in School Year 2 or above. See Kay after Mass, incl. Saturday Evening.

Readers & Ministers Rotas Ready for collection in the porch.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Next Wednesday, 3rd July after 7pm Mass, we will watch the 2nd part of the pilgrimage film.

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

International Day The Parish and Friends of St John Fisher would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support in making this day a huge success. It was an event enjoyed by all despite the weather. Thank you all for your continued support. Initial figures show a profit of £9,000 and we hope to be able to confirm this in the next week or two. The winners in the Grand Draw are as follows: 1st prize £ 350.00 Cash - Narissa Alves; 2nd – 1 year's membership Gym North Harrow - Brendan McCarthy; 3rd – 1 week at the Academies holiday camp – Harris from Bury St Edmonds; 4th – Dinner for 2 Curry Mahal – M McGrath; 5th – Fortnum & Mason Hamper – Kim Mitten; 6th – 12 Week swim lesson – Narissa Alves; 7th – Visage hair salon – Mrs L Regis; 8th – 1 month peak membership @ Highgrove – Kathy Hanrahan. If you have not heard from Friends by now please contact Monica @ monica.gaffney@btinternet.com to claim your prize.

St Edmund Campion Relic Courtesy of the Knights of Saint Columba a relic of St Edmund Campion, the London Saint, will be present at our Parish Masses on Monday 8th July and Tuesday, 9th July. There will be an opportunity to venerate a relic after Mass while we recite the Litany of the English Martyrs. The church will also remain open on those two days until 12pm for private veneration of the relic.

Devotions for the first Saturday of each month For the unborn – for the Church – for opposition to the same-sex marriage bill at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Boniface Walk, HA3 6PU. For dates and times please see poster on notice board.

The Passage Annual Garden Party Please support the excellent work which The Passage does for homeless people in Central London. The Party will be held in the beautiful and historic College Garden, Westminster Abbey on Friday, 12th July 2013 from 6pm-8.30pm. For more info see poster on notice board.

Pilgrims Progress The July edition is available in the porch.

St. John Fisher School – Staff Vacancies As and When Site Supervisor required, initially for 4 weeks at the end of July.

Required from September 2013: **Nursery Nurse.**

Teaching Assistants with lunchtime duty (term-time only).

Closing Date: noon Monday, 8th July. Application packs available on the Harrow Borough website or from St. John Fisher School, Melrose Road, Pinner HA5 5RA, Tel: 020 8868 2961, Email: office@st-johnfisher.harrow.sch.uk. For more information please see notice board in Church porch.

Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith – Staff Vacancies For more information please see notice board in Church porch.