



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)

21st July 2013 ~ Sixteenth 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



The Old Testament reading today is about that extra something Abraham gets from being a hospitable host. He and his wife, Sarah, are very old and have no children. There they are, living their own lives and minding their own business, when three men appear out of nowhere, the archetypal uninvited visitors. Abraham welcomes them warmly and Sarah produces a lavish meal. Abraham enjoys their company and learns from them something he would never have dreamt of, that when these strangers return in the spring, he and his wife would have a son.

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

These men were angels and in Old Testament stories angels indicate the presence and action of God. In fact so closely are these three men linked with God that the writer changes from speaking of three men to talking of the Lord. Abraham, in welcoming these strangers, unknowingly invited God into his home. Therefore, in showing hospitality we can encounter the divine.

Today's gospel reading presents a similar situation where Martha welcomes a travelling preacher into her home and she busies herself playing the perfect host. Her sister, Mary, doesn't seem to be any help at all but sits with the stranger, listening to his teaching. At this point the two sisters are unaware that their guest is the Son of God so, like Abraham, they are entertaining angels unawares. Martha is annoyed that Mary is no help and points out that her sister is neglecting the duties of a host. But Jesus reminds her that being hospitable means not only providing refreshment for your guests but also includes conversing with them and listening to them. Otherwise the hospitality is the kind you get in hotels which has nothing personal about it.

So instead of getting indignant on Martha's behalf because Mary is letting her do all the work, we should rather be admiring Mary's wisdom in recognising that their guest is something more than he appears to be. She recognises that listening to what Jesus has to say holds the key to what her life is all about. This encounter with Jesus is as much a life-changing event as Abraham's encounter with the three angels. Both are encounters with God. One leads to the founding of a nation into which God's Son will be born. The other is part of the founding of a Church by that same God, which will enable its members to have a direct relationship with his Son.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 20th July (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 John Roycroft RIP

Sunday 21st – 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Thanksgiving for Favours Received – B. D'Souza

11.30 Mrs. Maureen O'Dowd RIP

Monday 22nd – St Mary Magdalene

09.30 Joe Kerins RIP

12.30 Funeral of Martin Mahon RIP

Tuesday 23rd – ST BRIDGET, Religious, Patron of Europe

09.30 Fr. Norbert Fernandes (Silver Jubilee)

Wednesday 24th – Feria, Sixteenth Week of Year 1

19.00 Sally Sloane (Anniv)

Thursday 25th – ST JAMES, Apostle

09.30 People of the Parish (In Thanksgiving – The Browne Family)

Friday 26th – Sts Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

09.30 Catharine & Edward Barker (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, Cliff Welsh,

Pray Also For, Sally Sloane, Catharine & Edward Barker, Paddy O'Brien, Blanche Contaminard, Beatrice Pereira, Bridget Byrne, Ida Bastiampillai, Mary Cleary, John Bennet, Caroline Reddyhoff, Jim Leeson, Christopher Mortimer, John Malone, Alice Thoumine and Jean Cross whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Rebecca-Louise Devaney, Joachim Emmanuel, Joseph McCormick and Chelsea Ohaekebosi who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Sick List If, in the past, you have asked for someone to be put on the sick list, it would be very much appreciated if you could let Claudia know whether that person should be taken off – hopefully because they are now better.

'The Pylon' Copies of our Parish Magazine, The Pylon, are on sale at the back of the Church. Cost £1.

Fairtrade Stall Please note there will be no stall in August.

St. John Fisher Church Theatre Group Please see the notice board in the porch for our exciting new programme for Autumn & Winter 2013/2014, incl. Daytona, starring Maureen Lipman, Don Quixote, Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense, The Book of Mormon, An Evening with Abba and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Harrow Foodbank Help is needed moving boxes of food within the warehouse. If you could spare a few hours per week, please contact the Admin Office on 020 8863 6131.

Annual Youth 2000 Prayer Festival Seats available on a coach from Euston to Walsingham for the annual festival in August! If you are between the age of 16-35 and are keen on attending, please contact alexandramills@rcdow.org.uk from Westminster Youth Ministry for further information.

Summer Accommodation in London Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in central London in July and August. Beautiful gardens and chapel. Rooms from £45 per night (including breakfast). Please visit www.allenhall.org.uk, email allenhall@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7349 5600 (option 0).

Westminster Diocese Vacancy - Parish Administrator, Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth An exciting new opportunity has arisen for a Parish Administrator to join the parish priest and his team at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth. The successful applicant will ideally be an Administrator or Bookkeeper with substantial experience in office organisation. S/he must be a good team player with excellent communication and MS office skills. **Hours of work:** 20 hours per week (4 hours per day, weekdays) **Salary:** £10-12 per hour (neg) **Closing date:** 20 September 2013 **Interview date:** w/c 23 September 2013. For further information, please visit www.rcdow.org.uk.

Growing in Faith Thank you so much for your generosity towards the Growing in Faith campaign in our parish. I am humbled by the wonderful response of our parish to Archbishop Nichols' vision for the future of our Church in Westminster and to our needs here at St. John Fisher Church.

On the last day of the campaign a number of parishioners indicated on the small green cards that you wished to pay by Standing Order or to have more details about methods of payment. Thank you so much if you have already given us your details, using either the green forms that have been posted to you or a pledge form you requested from our volunteers. Of the £65,000 received in commitments, there is approx. £56,198 in pledges that still need to be completed. Please help us make Growing in Faith a true grass-roots effort by ensuring that we can count every one of those pledges too. I look forward to giving you a detailed update next weekend.

I know that you will continue to pray for the success of Growing in Faith in our parish and across the Diocese. *Fr Shaun*

Getting Married Please remember that it is a requirement of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales that at least six months notice be given if you intend to get married. We need this time to process the paperwork and to ensure that you can have access to Marriage Preparation.

Music at Mass As usual there will be no music at Mass over the summer months. Many thanks to our parish musicians for all they have done this year. We hope that they will enjoy a well earned rest. We hope to start music at Mass again on Sunday 8th September.

Re Ordering of the Church The tender documents have now been completed and have been sent out to building firms. As soon as we have more news we will let you know.

Parish Pilgrimage and Holiday I am thinking of organising a Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Palazzola in mid May next year. This three centre pilgrimage would include three nights in Rome (half board). When we are in Rome we would go to the general audience with Pope Francis, a night in Assisi (Full Board) and Three nights at Villa Palazzola, (full board). Check out the website at www.palazzola.it We are still working on costs and the precise itinerary and dates, but all excursions e.g. to Assisi, Frascati and Villa Deste, the wine tour of Albano and the sites of Rome are included in the price which will be around £1,100. Expressions of interest should be made know to Fr. Shaun or to Kay.