



## 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)

## 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013 ~ Seventeenth 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



Today's parable is about persistence in prayer. In the light of the story we have to ask which of the characters is really making unreasonable demands on the friendship? The man who has gently put his children to bed and is now trying to sleep? Or the friend who is unorganised and demanding and bangs on people's doors at midnight? And, what is more, keeps banging on them, until he gets what he wants!

Now, Jesus puts the granting of the man's request down to his 'persistence', but there is a further nuance to the word Jesus uses. It is a particular type of persistence, an impudent or shameless persistence. It seems as if the reward comes to the man because he is shameless in asking and not simply because he persevered.

We might be able to see what to make of this interpretation if we look at Abraham's entreaty in the book of Genesis that God not destroy the city of Sodom. Abraham knows how impertinent he is being in this dialogue with God, for he uses such rhetoric as he perseveres in asking for more and more. 'Let me undertake to speak to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes' (Gen. 18,27.31) Abraham is shamelessly persistent in his petitions, like the man in the gospel who keeps on banging on the door, Abraham knows he is trying his luck with God, but he keeps going.

Jesus message is stark and simple: 'ask, and it will be given to you'. This is the trajectory of the discourse here. Following the teaching of a prayer that encourages us to speak directly and simply to God as Father. Jesus gives examples of what this means by looking at our relationships here on earth. If human beings come through for each other, our friends, our parents, how much more will God, if we recognise that we are his children? This is the logic of the simple teaching of Jesus and recalls the words of Isaiah. "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you", says The Lord' Isa 49,14-15.

Jesus has come to deepen our understanding of what it means to have a relationship with God. He has come to fulfil the promise of God. It is only the one who is like Jesus who prays like Jesus, who has no shame before God to keep on asking. Namely, one who is a child of God. Jesus teaches us that prayer is about simply and confidently calling God, Father. And because he is our Father, we can be bold and persistent.

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Fr Noel O'Connor (Sick) & Harry Bowen (Anniv)

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Mary Parker RIP

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Regis Family

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> – St Martha

09.30 Elinor Thiruchelvam (Special Intention)

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

09.30 Terry Rough RIP

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> – St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

19.00 Sebastian Vincent Perry RIP

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August – St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor

09.30 Mrs. Eugenia Sulikowska & Family RIP

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Feria

09.30 Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Nicholas (Anniv) and  
5<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Shreya Magdalene Joseph

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**, Fr Victor Croos, Clive Rodrigo, Tim Wray,

**Pray Also For**, Harry Bowen, Mr & Mrs Gerard Nicholas, Jack & Ita Ryan, Janet King, Tim Hutton, Chrissie Hurley, Jenny Dancaster, Bridget Casey, Mary Williams, Annie Chanahlian, Bridget Doherty, Gerald Clancy, Ann East, Bill Rainsford, Arthur A. Harris, Tommy Hughes and Andrew Jelfs whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**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'** The Summer Edition of our exciting Parish magazine is now available at the back of the church. Price £1. Please buy a copy and support our advertisers who are all parishioners.

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

**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](mailto: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](http://www.allenhall.org.uk), email [allenhall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:allenhall@rcdow.org.uk) or call 020 7349 5600 (option 0).

**Open parish meeting about Churches Together in North Harrow.** There will be a meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of September at 8pm to review how the parish currently contributes to the work of CTNH. It is for everyone who is interested in furthering reconciliation between the different Christian Churches, and who wishes to see further development in the way they cooperate. There will be more details early in September. In the meantime please make a note in your diary.

**SVP Outing for Senior Citizens:** An Outing and Tea at a local garden centre is being arranged for the afternoon of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. If you are - shall we say Well Retired - and are

interested, or if you have a relative who finds it difficult to get out and would like to come, please contact an SVP member, or ring Tony (8868 3205) or Ann (8427 1363) for information.

**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, so please complete your pledge form and return it either direct to the Growing in Faith office or to the Presbytery.** 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 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Parish Pilgrimage and Holiday** I am thinking of organising a Pilgrimage to Assisi, Rome, and Palazzola in May next year. This three centre pilgrimage would include two nights in Assisi (full board). Three nights in Rome, (half board); finally, we will spend two nights at the beautiful Villa Palazzola, (full board). Check out the website at [www.palazzola.it](http://www.palazzola.it) **The cost will be around £1,150 and the dates are Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.** All transfers to and from the airport and excursions e.g. to Assisi, Frascati and Villa D'Este, the wine tour of Albano and the sights of Rome are included in the price. When we are in Rome we will also go to the general audience with Pope Francis. Expressions of interest should be made know to Fr. Shaun or to Kay.

**Off on Hols** If you are taking a summer break we hope that you have a restful time. And that you will return to us refreshed and relaxed. Parish life tends to get quiet during the August period and it usually enables up to catch up with all those jobs we have been putting off.

**Newsletter** This will be the last full edition of the newsletter before the summer break. Next week's newsletter will contain details of Masses to be said during August.