



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)

1st September 2013 ~ Twenty-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

Jesus wasn't interested in table etiquette, nor in helping us to avoid public humiliation! Still less is he urging a false humility in the hope that people, recognising our true worth, will give us a more prestigious place. Such a person would simply be a crafty status seeker - far worse than someone who simply grabbed the best seat.

This meal, like all the others in the Gospels, anticipated the heavenly banquet. Here Jesus is telling us that we are not the ones to decide which position we deserve. Our very presence at the heavenly banquet is God's gift. None of us deserves this. He will overturn our sense of priorities and will give the highest places to those whom the worldly consider to be the least important.

The meal described in today's Gospel provides an interlude on Christ's journey to Jerusalem and the cross. That context gives special force to the folly of being status seekers.

Jesus himself came to serve, not to be served. While Adam fell through his pride leading him to strive to become equal to Almighty God, the Son of God emptied himself of the glory which was his by right. Jesus became humble and obedient, even to death on the cross. The God of glory became despised and rejected. And yet it was precisely in his lowliness that Jesus revealed his true greatness. On the cross he showed the power and generosity of his love for his heavenly Father and for us sinners. Jesus, who lowered himself to become the least, was raised to become the first in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The crucified Christ shows us where our true greatness lies. Not in the honour or status we may bestow on ourselves, but in following Jesus along the way of the cross. Like him, we are called to serve, rather than be served, to give of ourselves, rather than grab for ourselves. Sometimes that will be costly, painful and humiliating. But, with the grace of God, this will bring out the very best in us. And God will give us a place of honour at his heavenly banquet.

The full meaning of this parable is brought home forcefully in the light of the Last Supper. As Jesus and the apostles celebrated the salvation God had brought to his people in the past, Christ committed himself to saving the world through his death on the cross. While he was preparing to be brought low, his followers were striving to exalt themselves. They started arguing as to which of them was the greatest - immediately after Jesus had celebrated the first Eucharist and had prophesied that one of them would betray him. What a dreadful, frightening irony! This should warn all who are too full of their own importance. Possibly any one of us!

Certainly we should take God very seriously. But let's be able to laugh at ourselves and our ridiculous posturing. That's far better than God and other people despising us as pretentious fools! Rather than our instinctively thinking we're the greatest, we should humbly recognise the dignity and worth of other people and leave the ranking to God.

Fr. Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 31st August (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Mrs. Muktaben Bhadresa (Anniv)

Sunday 1st September – 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP

11.30 Roy Simpson (Anniv)

Monday 2nd – Feria, Twenty-Second Week of Year 1

09.30 Yvonne Pinto RIP

13.30 Funeral of Errol Ray RIP

Tuesday 3rd – ST GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope & Doctor

09.30 Patricia Sharpe RIP

Wednesday 4th – Feria

19.00 Eucharistic Service

Thursday 5th – Feria

09.30 Mick McBreen RIP

Friday 6th – Feria

09.30 Mrs. Shammy Canagasuriam (1st Anniv)

11.00 Funeral of Richard Sacchett 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, Gertrude Harris, Richard Sacchett, Victor Emmanuel.

Pray Also For, Muktaben Bhadresa, Roy Simpson, Shammy Canagasuriam, Julia Stevenson, Eulalia D’Cruz, Mary Glavin, Bernard Fielder, John Bennett, Marie Lisicki, David Freear and Romanus Nwokoro whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Errol Ray who has died. Requiem Mass on Monday, 2nd September at 1.30pm at St John Fisher Church followed by burial at Pinner New Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends.

Please Remember Richard Sacchett who has died. Requiem Mass on Friday, 6th September at 11am at St John Fisher Church followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends.

Joe Kelly RIP Agnes wishes to thank all those who sympathised with her in her recent loss. The holy sacrifice of the mass will be offered for your intentions.

Welcome Back We hope you had an enjoyable summer break. Normal service resumes from next week when our music groups will once again be animating our liturgies.

Parish Council Will meet in the Upper Room on Monday, 16th September at 7.30pm.

Readers & Ministers Rotas Ready for collection in the Church porch.

Children’s Liturgy Helpers Please collect your rota for September. We will re-start from 22nd September.

Children’s Religious Education Classes Will start on Saturday, 21st September at 9-10am. This is for any child in School year 1 to School year 7 who do not attend a Catholic School.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Do you enjoy cheese? An expert on cheese is giving a talk to the UCM on Wednesday, 4th September after 7pm Mass and there will be an opportunity to sample a wide variety of cheese. Everyone welcome. Come and bring a friend, we will be delighted to see you.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 5th September 2013 at 8pm in the Social Club.

Parish Women Group's Social Evening - Thursday, 12th September at 8pm in the Parish Centre. Cost £1. Come and join in with keep fit, badminton and table tennis or if you are not sporty, enjoy a chat over light refreshments. PWG is open to all women of all ages in the parish and on invitation, their female friends. It is a friendly group, welcoming new members. So if you are new to the parish or have never been before, give us a try. A bottle or small portion of snacks would make welcome contributions to this evening. Hope to see you there. For more details contact Barbara Towell at barbaratowell@sky.com or 020 8866 6665.

Tai Chi The new term begins on Thursday, 12th September at 1.30pm-3.00pm. This takes place in the large hall at the St. John Fisher Parish Centre. Tai Chi is open to both men and women. New members welcome. For more details contact Barbara Towell at barbaratowell@sky.com or 020 8866 6665.

The Pylon - Christmas edition 2013 Thank you to all those people who gave The Pylon such positive feedback. It is time once again to ask parishioners to start writing! Do send us letters, articles, book, film, TV reviews - covering all age groups, creative writing - poems, stories and flash fiction: To barbaratowell@sky.com or place in Barbara Towell's pigeonhole. **Children**, keep an eye open over the next weeks for details with regards the next **Creative Writing Competition**. Deadline for submissions is 31st October.

Feast of our Lady of Madhu At St. Michael and Martin Catholic Church, 94 Bath Road, Hounslow on Sunday, 8th September at 3pm prompt. All welcome. Please see poster on notice board.

Day Pilgrimage – Feast of St. Jude Thaddeus, Cousin of Jesus and Patron Saint of Special Needs At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel’s Church, St Jude’s Shrine, Tanner Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 7JW on Sunday, 20th October at 11am-2.30pm. For details please see poster on notice board.

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. **The cost will be around £1,150 and the dates are Friday 16th May – Friday 23rd 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. Booking forms will be sent out in the next few weeks with a request for a deposit.

Association of Separated and Divorced Catholics Next meeting of the Harrow ASDC Group will be on Monday, 2nd September at 8pm in St Bernard’s Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics, whatever their situation, are welcome. For further info please contact Jill 0208 204 3714 or Eileen 0208 756 1284.

Pilgrims Progress The September edition is available in the Church porch.