



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)

8th September 2013 ~ Twenty-Third 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 gospel sounds very harsh at first hearing and perhaps on further reading. It seems a bit much, if not entirely wrong, that Jesus should expect us to hate our father, our mother, our wife, our children, our brothers, our sisters, even our own life, and all our possessions, in order to follow him. What Jesus is doing is to nudge us towards a glimpse of the fundamental change required in us in order to become sons and daughters of God.

There are examples throughout history where we are promised that external structural change to the society in which we live will solve all our problems. Bring on the revolution. And of course, we find that little changes. Some situations may require revolutionary change, but revolutions are unlikely to change much, unless they are accompanied with revolutionary change in the hearts of people.

The people in the gospel are following Jesus but not for the right reasons. They do not know where Jesus is going: his crucifixion and ultimate return to the Father. They are looking for change but did not appreciate that following Jesus entailed the ultimate change of finding their way to God. They were looking for security in this life.

They wanted a change. There were the hungry, who wanted to be fed; the sick, who wanted to be healed; the poor, who wanted to become rich; and the dead, carried by their relatives, who, according to those relatives, wanted to be revived. They followed him enthusiastically, full of hope, and looking for the good things in life.

Jesus turned around; he stopped them and challenged them. He wanted to know if they really knew where he was going. Like the tower builder, did they appreciate the cost of the journey? Like the king, did they appreciate the enormity of the task? There was misunderstanding between Jesus and his followers. They were following him the old way. The people wanted a better position in the old order, to get rich, to get healthy, and to get security.

They wanted an improved old life. Jesus wanted to give them another life. The people wanted change, but they were thinking only of themselves, their families, their lives, and their possessions. Jesus was thinking about the Kingdom of God. Jesus was thinking of humanity as God's family on its way to a final outcome.

Jesus is asking the people to think in terms of the kingdom of God. He is asking them to give up on the things of this world: corruption and whatever else distracts their attention from God, which can even include family.

Fr. Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 7th September (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Mary Glavin (Anniv)
Sunday 8th September – 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
08.30 Rane Catherine Saverimuttu (1st Anniv) &
Rita German Saverimuttu (2nd Anniv)
10.00 B.J. Connolly (Int)
11.30 Mary Pauline Rajakarier (Anniv)
Monday 9th – Feria, Twenty-Third Week of Year 1
09.30 B.J. Connolly (Int)
Tuesday 10th – Feria
09.30 People of the Parish (In Thanksgiving – The McBreen Family)
Wednesday 11th – Feria
19.00 Julia Reilly RIP
Thursday 12th – Feria
09.30 Rajeev Kanagarasa (Anniv)
Friday 13th – St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor
09.30 Michael O'Donnell 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.

Pray Also For, Mary Glavin, Rane Catherine Saverimuttu & Rita German Saverimuttu, Mary Pauline Rajakarier, Rajeev Kanagarasa, Declan Hurley, Clara Mars-Harris, Mary Glenc, Josephine & Reginald Benjamin, Joan Salisbury, Bridie Lagrue, Pearl Bryant, Patrick Cunningham, Dennis McHugh, John Furlong, Betty Trundle and Monty Moriarty whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome William Bucksey, Tala Duggan, Sophia Montaut and Vianna Walter who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

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

Welcome Ministry Rota Please collect your new rota from the Church porch.

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.

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-3pm. 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.

Churches Together in North Harrow There will be a meeting on Wednesday, 25th September at 8pm to review how the parish currently contributes to the work of CTNH. It is for everyone who is interested in reconciliation between the different Christian Churches, and who wishes to see development in the way they co-operate. For further details please see the poster on the notice board in the Church porch or in the adjoining rack.

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage St. Augustine's Shrine, St. Augustine's Road, Ramsgate, Kent on 14th September from 11am-4.30pm. For more info please see poster on notice board.

Pan-African Annual Mass (Celebrating 20 years of African Mission in Britain) At St. George's Catholic Cathedral, Lambeth Rd, Southwark, London SE1 7HY on 15th September at 3pm. For more info please see 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.

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Open Evenings For Year 7 On Thursday, 19th September and 24th September 4.30-7.30pm. For Year 12 on Thursday, 3rd October and 15th October 6-8pm. For more info please see notice board.

St. Gregory's Catholic Science College Open Evening On Thursday, 19th September from 3pm. For more info please see notice board.

The Sacred Heart Language College, Wealdstone Open Evenings On Thursday, 12th September 6.30-8.30pm and Wednesday, 18th September 4-6pm. For more info please see notice board.

St. Joan of Arc Catholic School, Rickmansworth Open Evening On Thursday, 3rd October 6-9pm and Open Morning on Friday, 4th October 9am-12pm.

Vacancy at Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School For Assistant Chaplain (3 Year Contract). For more info please see notice board.

Diocese of Westminster Vacancy – Parish Administrator at Our Lady and St. Michael, Garston. Hours of work: 10 hours per week (2 hours per day, Mon-Fri), Salary: £10-12/hr (neg). Closing date 13th September. For more info please see notice board.