



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531
www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

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)

22nd September 2013 ~ Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year C

The following is an extract taken from a letter written by Fr. Shaun to the parents of St John Fisher School. Full copies of the text are available at the back of the Church.

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

Historically, Catholic education has flourished in England and Wales. It continues to do so today and will continue to act as a beacon and provider of good practice and authentic education. In the parish of St John Fisher and throughout the Catholic Deanery of Harrow we are blessed to have outstanding primary provision. Many parents fight to gain a place for their child. It is heart-breaking that we do not have the capacity to give a place in our school to all the families who apply for admission to St John Fisher School. However, in the parish, through our Saturday class and catechetical provision we try to make sure that elements of a faith education are available to all our children.

However, for those parents who gain and take up a place for their child at St John Fisher School, there is an expectation that they will be active members of our parish community and that children who have spent their primary years in our school will continue their education within the Catholic sector when it comes to Secondary school transfer.

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

Disturbingly, I have noticed a growing tendency for parents to opt out of the Catholic system at Secondary level. Many reasons are given for this and there are two main voices that I hear. Firstly, there are the voices of some parents who opt for schools that provide high levels of academic achievement. But if we continue to send our most gifted students to such institutions we are not enabling their talents to shine out in our own schools.

Secondly, I hear the voices of parents who opt for convenience. 'Why should I send my child across the borough or beyond when the local state school is on my door step?' I would argue that sometimes we have to look beyond immediate gratification and ease. We have to appreciate that the right to a catholic education was fought for by our ancestors and we betray such a heritage at our peril.

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

When making a decision about Secondary transfer parents need to remember the reasons why they initially chose a Catholic primary education for their children. This choice was not merely based on the solid education our primary schools provide. The choice was made because of the pastoral care, common identity, spirituality, sense of social responsibility and challenge that our schools imbue our children with. Or, as St Benedict succinctly puts it in his Rule, "that the strong might have something to strive for and the weak might have nothing to fear."

This sense of our Catholic identity is built upon and expanded in our secondary schools. Here, our children are encouraged to develop their spirituality and are introduced to the concepts that underpin Roman Catholic social teaching. This is designed to ensure the dignity of the human person and to encourage each individual to use their talents on behalf of the common good. Most non Catholic schools do not, in my experience, have the motivating influence of a coherent and dynamic set of principals which give children the moral compass that they will need in order to negotiate the harsh realities of adult life and the world in which they will have to live. Nor, in such a secular setting, does there exist the collaboration that parents treasure between the home, the school and the parish.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 21st September (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Clara Mars-Harris (Anniv)
Sunday 22nd September – 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
08.30 People of the Parish
10.00 Peter Digby RIP
11.30 Tom Nolan (Anniv)
Monday 23rd – St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
09.30 Peter McDonnell RIP
Tuesday 24th – Our Lady of Walsingham
09.30 Matilda Stanislaus & Shammy Canagasuriam RIP
Wednesday 25th – Feria, Twenty-Fifth Week of Year 1
19.00 Tim Wray RIP
Thursday 26th – Feria
09.30 Marie Wimala Chandra (Int)
11.00 Funeral of Ann Maybury RIP
Friday 27th – St Vincent de Paul, Priest
09.30 Recovery of George from coma and Family
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, Andy Blackburn, Mrs. Greensmyth, John Kajda, Ann Maybury, Alma Houghton.

Pray Also For, Clara Mars-Harris, Tom Nolan, Olive McHugh, Edward Ofulue, Patrick O'Malley, John Hayes, Mary Joseph Anthonypillai, Jack Fitzgerald, Diana Antony, Francis Lewandoski, Maura Moriarty, Natalia D'Silva, Sassi Pellegrini, Raymonde Thillier, Sean Caden, Delia Mulvaney, Keith Cullis, Agnes Van Rosse, Eileen Lynch, Bridget & James Horkan and Mary Kane whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Ann Maybury who has died. Requiem Mass on Thursday, 26th September at 11.00am at St John Fisher Church followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

Funeral of Eileen Carey RIP On Wednesday, 25th September at 11.30am at St. George's, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury and onto Hendon Cemetery, Holders Hill Road, NW7 1NB. Eileen may have been known to people through her work at St. Dominic's 6th Form College.

Training for new Altar Servers Will take place at 4pm on Monday, 30th September in the church. If you would like to serve and have not already seen Fr Shaun or Kay then please see either of them before Sunday, 29th September.

Coffee Morning We look forward to welcoming you all back after the Summer break, to our regular coffee morning today after the 10am and 11.30am Masses. As usual, raffle tickets will be on sale after both Masses and all proceeds towards the restoration of our church.

Fairtrade Stall Will be open in the porch after all Masses next weekend.

School Admission Fr. Shaun will sign school forms for SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFERS on Saturday, 5th October at 10.30-11.45am and Saturday, 12th October at 10.30am-12.30pm. Both days are by APPOINTMENT ONLY so please contact Claudia McHugh by e-mail claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or on 8429 5681 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm). When making your appointment please advise if you are applying for more than one school. Parents should come to the Parish Centre on both days.

Churches Together in North Harrow There is a meeting about Churches Together at 8pm in the small hall on Wednesday, 25th September. Details were distributed with the parish newsletter last week. If you need them you will find additional copies in the plastic rack on the wall near the notice board in the porch. All are welcome to attend.

Children's Creative Writing Competition Are you 12 years old or younger? Would you like to see your poem, short story, flash fiction, descriptive piece or short play script published in The Pylon? Then why not enter this competition? Winners will have their work published in the Christmas edition. In addition, the winner of the **First Prize will receive a £10 Smith's token** and the **runner up, chocolates**. All entries must be your own **original work**. Your **first and surname plus age** must be clearly written on entry. **The subject matter is your choice**. All **submissions** must be received by **31st October**. Email barbaratowell@sky.com or place in Barbara Towell's pigeon hole.

Macmillan Coffee Morning and Cake Sale On Friday, 27th September from 10am onwards at 14 Central Avenue. Cakes can be left at 12 Central Avenue. GET BAKING. Enquiries to Bridie 88682253.

Gregg McCann & The Hands of Jazz Return to St John Fisher on Saturday, 12th October. Tickets £22.50 (includes fish & chip supper). Box office: 020 8866 3836. Raffle and collection in aid of HCPT-The Pilgrimage Trust. For full details visit www.thehandsofjazz.co.uk.

Mass Intentions Thank you for your mass intentions which are greatly appreciated. We have Mass cards: for the living and for the dead. The cards are 50p each (please put money in 'papers' box at the back of the Church) and the offering suggested by the Diocese for a Mass is £10. If, however, you cannot afford this, £5 will suffice. If you would like to have a Mass offered, please contact Claudia on 020 8429 5681 or claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk.

The 29th Annual National Rosary Crusade of Reparation On Saturday, 12th October 2013. For full itinerary please see notice board.

Donations for City Pregnancy Counselling and Psychotherapy Have you any unwanted baby items such as prams, cots, baby clothes or toiletries new and used in good Condition? Please consider donating them to City Pregnancy Counselling and Psychotherapy for our clients and their families who are currently experiencing financial hardship at this time during their pregnancy. We will collect throughout London from you. Contact Agnes Rees, Manager, 020 7638 5440 or email info@citypregnancy.org.uk, visit www.citypregnancy.org.uk.

Gunnersbury Catholic School for Boys Open Days for prospective pupils and their families: Wednesday, 25th September (2pm-3.30pm and 6pm-8pm), Wednesday, 2nd October (2pm-3.30pm) and Wednesday, 9th October (9.30am-10.30 am). Please note Wednesday, 9th October will be by appointment only and parents are asked to contact Mrs Martin on 020 8568 7281 to arrange.

Westminster Diocese Vacancy - Youth Worker at St George's Parish, Sudbury The Catholic Parish of Sudbury wishes to appoint, from late 2013 (or as soon as practically possible) a suitably qualified, dynamic and committed practising Catholic with vision, energy and enthusiasm. **Closing date:** 11 October 2013. For more info please see notice board.