



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531

www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

YEAR OF FAITH <sup>2012</sup>/<sub>2013</sub>

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)

## 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013 ~ Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year C Remembrance Sunday

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### *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

In the episode narrated in today's Gospel it is the Sadducees who take on Jesus. The issue concerns the resurrection of the dead, and we are told that the Sadducees did not believe in this doctrine. Jesus refutes them by arguing that there will be a new order in the world to come, in which those who are resurrected from the dead no longer marry or die. From their position as the rich and powerful of society the Sadducees can see nothing beyond the current world order. Yet in clinging to their privileges they set a deadly limit to their ambitions. They have nowhere to go but down (literally in this case where the grave will be their resting place), and thus furiously hold onto their position, opposing those who challenge them even to the point of killing.

It is not only the rich and powerful in society who are prone to this clinging to position. Each of us faces the temptation of replacing the Kingdom Jesus promises to the children of the resurrection with our own limited ambitions; and if we do succeed in our ambitions what then? Once you reach the top the only way is down. So should we give up all ambition, content ourselves with coasting along in life? There is no doubt that giving up certain ambitions can be immensely freeing. Frustrated ambition can crush our spirits, but to completely give up on our ambitions is to succumb to a melancholy which leads towards despair. In his classic comic novel *A House for Mr Biswas*, V S Naipaul tells the story of a man with a simple ambition; to build his own house. Mr Biswas is a tragically comic figure, yet for all his foolishness he retains something of his dignity. The house is a botched job, his life is in many respects tragic, yet his ambition sets him apart from those who are willing to sit and wait passively for what life will throw at them.

Those with seemingly more successful lives may be inclined to sympathise with Mr Biswas, yet would find little in common with him. But each of us at some time has to face the fact that our lives are a botched job. Wittgenstein in the preface to his *Philosophical Investigations* writes that he would have liked to have produced a good book, but it did not come about. Fear of producing a work somewhat less than perfect can cripple many writers, yet it is in accepting our limitation, rather than in pretending to a perfection beyond us that great works can emerge. If we place into God's hands the limitation of our botched lives, and even the times of utter failure, He will transform our poor ambition so that we become His great work: the New Creation in which there will be no limit to ambition as there will no limit to how great we can become by sharing in His greatness.

*Fr Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

**DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, THE HOLY SOULS ARE REMEMBERED AT ALL OUR MASSES.**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> – 32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Maura & Monty Moriarty (Anniv)

10.00 For the Fallen

11.30 Albert & Louisa Fernandes RIP and Dominic Fernandes RIP

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – St Martin of Tours, Bishop

09.30 Mary Standon RIP

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr

09.30 Daniel Jesuthasan (Anniv)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Feria, Thirty-Second Week of Year 1

19.00 St. Vincent De Paul Intentions

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Feria

09.30 John & Nora Riordan RIP and Deceased Members of the  
Riordan Family

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Feria

09.30 Dr. Nihal Ranasinghe RIP

**11.00 Funeral of Phyllis Berry 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**, Mick Carroll, Phyllis Berry.

**Pray Also For**, Maura & Monty Moriarty, Daniel Jesuthasan, Alexander Buhagiar, Frederick Goddard, Vincent Arrigo, Joan Olive, Mrs. Ofulue, Charles Harris, Bill Smith, Patrick Webber, John White, Jean Wise, Patrick Lawrence Webber, Mary Leeson, Anthony Bayross, James Scully, Tom Kavanagh, Suleiman Raie and Peter Sen whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Please Remember** Phyllis Berry who has died. Requiem Mass on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> November at 11am at St John Fisher Church followed by burial at Pinner New Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

**School Admission Form Signing for PRIMARY & 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM** Please contact Claudia McHugh for an appointment at [claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk) or on 8429 5681 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm). Please note that candidates who apply for 6<sup>th</sup> FORM should attend – not parents.

**Annual Parish Meeting** To be held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Items for the Agenda should be notified, in writing, to the Chairman c/o the Parish House, no later than 14 days prior to the meeting.

**Blessing of the Graves** Mass will be celebrated in the Cemetery Chapel at 11am at Pinner New Cemetery on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November. This will be followed by the blessing of the graves.

**CAFOD Christmas Card Stall** Will be open this weekend after all masses and every weekend thereafter.

**Parish Coffee Morning** An invitation to all to come along to our coffee morning today after both the 10.00am and 11.30am Masses. Come and enjoy a slice of homemade cake and a warm drink with family and friends. As usual, raffle tickets will be on sale after both Masses and all proceeds go towards the restoration of our church.

**Parish Women's Group (PWG)** The next meeting is **Book Evening**. It will be on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm in the small hall of

the St. John Fisher Parish Centre where we will be discussing "Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn. In addition, we will be recommending other books we have enjoyed. All women of the Parish and their female friends will be made most welcome whether you have read "Gone Girl" or not. A bottle or a few light snacks to share would be appreciated. For more details contact Barbara Towell at [barbaratowell@sky.com](mailto:barbaratowell@sky.com) or 020 8866 6665.

**Parish Curry Night** Please collect your tickets in the Porch after Mass this weekend or thereafter from the presbytery. Cheques made payable to St. John Fisher Church. **Helpers Needed** We will set up the hall for the evening from 10.30am on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November. Do remember we will also need willing helpers to give a hand with cleaning up at the end of the evening.

**St. John Fisher Social Club** Are holding an **AUTUMN QUIZ** on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm in the Parish Hall. Entrance is £3 per person. Do come along and support us, we'd love to be able to repeat the success of our last one. All proceeds to parish funds. For further information or to book a team, please email [durcanjohn@aol.com](mailto:durcanjohn@aol.com).

**Zumba Fitness Class at St. John Fisher Church – Change of Time** Please note that from Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November the class will be at 8-9pm.

**Survey – Your Help Required** In 2014 there will be a synod held at the Vatican which will have as its theme "Pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelisation". That sounds pretty dry, but Pope Francis wants to hear from the whole Church about what we think marriage is and what it's for. Issues such as co-habitation, the situation of those who have been divorced and have re-married and same sex unions will be addressed. Please respond to the following survey before December 6<sup>th</sup> if you wish your voice to be heard. [surveymonkey.com/s/FamilySynod2014](https://surveymonkey.com/s/FamilySynod2014). Perhaps organisations such as the Women's Group, the UCM, the Knight of St Columba and the Catenians might wish to work together and submit a joint response.

**Westminster Cathedral – Upcoming Concerts between now and Christmas** Please see posters on noticeboard in the porch.

**Apply now to take part in a Samuel Group** Samuel groups are discernment groups for young adults (18-30s) who are open to listening to the Word of God and putting it into practice in their lives. This year groups will meet in Central, North, East, West and South West London, as well as in St Albans and Erith. After a launch afternoon in Kensington on the afternoon of Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, participants will meet in local groups from Advent to Pentecost. For further information please see poster on noticeboard in the Church porch.

**Research on Faith & Moral Issues** Liam Hayes, Theology Programme Adviser at CAFOD, is working on his PhD and would be grateful if you could spare some time to assist him in his research and complete an online questionnaire at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/liamhayesresearch>.

**Diocese of Westminster Vacancy – Payroll Officer** We are currently seeking an experienced Payroll Officer to work in our central London Offices in SW1. Hours of Work 9am-5pm Monday-Friday (35 hours per week), Closing Date 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2103. For details please see noticeboard in Church porch.

**Sick & Retired Priests' Fund** Please return your envelopes today. Thank you for your support. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.