



YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013

## 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)

### 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013 ~ Thirtieth Sunday of the Year C

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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

Despite the proclamation of his good deeds, that we hear about in today's gospel, the Pharisee's prayer fails most obviously because he condemns the tax collector. And behind that condemnation is a certain sort of self-regard by which the Pharisee places himself at the centre of his prayer. To be self-regarding, or proud, in this sense is to fail in regard for others. It is to isolate oneself from others. The proud and the lonely are ultimately one and the same.

Yet, the Pharisee wasn't wrong to be looking at himself. Self-knowledge is as crucial to the Judaeo-Christian moral life as it was to Socratic philosophers. St Catherine of Siena's spiritual masterpiece, the Dialogue, opens with an image of the soul dwelling in the 'cell of self-knowledge'; everything has to start there. The problem is that the Pharisee wasn't looking hard enough. The difficult challenge is to recognise both our good works, our strengths, and our moral failings. In refusing to admit what virtues he lacked, what sins he had committed, the Pharisee failed to ask for God's further transforming graces.

Perhaps we do not consider how much in us must change by the grace of Jesus Christ. Worse, we are deeply insecure at this prospect, because such change is a kind of death, a death of that habitual self with which we are at ease.

Lack of self-knowledge was also what enabled the Pharisee to make the fatal comparison between himself and the tax collector: he failed to see that they were both fellow sinners; both stood in need of God's mercy. Comparing his own good deeds with the other's sins allowed for contempt to take the place of love. St Augustine once commented on this Gospel scene that God is better pleased with humility for our sins than pride at our good deeds. After all, the tax-collector has done real wrong and knows it; but in his sorrow he cries out for the mercy of God and in humility, receives it. True humility, then, is that self-knowledge which acknowledges our individual gifts, our common weakness and the majesty of God. It is thus compatible with a real Christian confidence. This is, above all else, a confidence in God, one that looks to His providence and grace. It recognises the desire of God in Christ to make good what is still lacking in us.

*Fr. Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

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

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Julia Reilly RIP

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Herbert Hoffmann RIP

11.30 In Thanksgiving – Russell & Edna Arulanantham Wedding Anniv.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – STS SIMON and JUDE, Apostles

09.30 Rita Plunkett (Sick)

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> – Blessed Martyrs of Douai College

09.30 Mr. & Mrs. John Kavanagh (Anniv)

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> – Feria, Thirtieth Week of Year 1

19.00 Tania Gilbert RIP

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> – Feria

09.30 Rose & Ted Harrington (Int)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – **ALL SAINTS**

09.30 Anton Regis RIP

**Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

19.00 People of the Parish

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**, Michael Gallagher, John Lavelle, David Else.

**Pray Also For**, Mr. & Mrs. John Kavanagh, Frederick Goddard, Kathleen Foran, Esmé Phaire, Michael Rooney, Timothy Kelleher and Arthur Moore whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**School Admission** Fr. Shaun will sign school forms for PRIMARY & 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM COLLEGE on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am-12.30pm in the Parish Hall. For an appointment please contact Claudia McHugh 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. *If you are applying for a 6<sup>th</sup> FORM in West London with a deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> December, please contact Claudia for an earlier appointment.*

**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.

**All Saints** Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November is the Feast of All Saints and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass that day will be celebrated at 9.30am and 7pm.

**Mass for the Bereaved** Each year in November we celebrate a Mass for those who have been bereaved in recent years. This will be held at 6pm on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the Feast of All Souls. Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served in St. John Fisher Parish Hall afterwards.

**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.

**Parish Women's Group Evening** On Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November. The book to be discussed is "**Gone Girl**" by Gillian Flynn. More details about the evening to follow next week. But in the meantime, get reading!

**The Pylon** All those of you who have promised articles for the forthcoming Christmas edition of the parish magazine, The Pylon, note that the deadline is **October 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please e-mail to [barbaratowell@sky.com](mailto:barbaratowell@sky.com) by this date. Many thanks.

**The Pylon - Children's Creative Writing Competition Reminder** **Deadline for entries is October 31<sup>st</sup>**. If you are 12 or under, why not to write a poem, short story, description or even a short script for the competition? First prize is a **£10 Smith's token** and the runner up will receive **chocolates**. Both **winning entries will be published** in the Christmas edition of The Pylon. You may choose your own subject to write about. Write your full name and age on your work; and either place it in Barbara Towell's pigeon hole in the porch or email to [barbaratowell@sky.com](mailto:barbaratowell@sky.com).

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

**Parish Curry Night - 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.

**Faith Matters Talks: Lord Teach us to pray** On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013, Fr Dermot Preston SJ (Provincial of the British Jesuits) on 'Through a Google Glass Darkly – Finding God in the Digital Age', 7.00-8.30pm, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013, Archbishop Augustine Di Noia, OP on 'Contemporary Challenges to Proclaim the Catholic Faith', 7.00-8.30pm, Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, SW1P 1QJ. Please register at <http://rcdow.org.uk/faith/faith-matters/> or [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or call 02079316078.

**A Mindfulness retreat in the Christian Tradition** For all Parish Adult Faith Formation Leaders, Parish Pastoral Council Members, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Volunteers and anyone who would like to learn more about their own faith and themselves. Facilitators: Mgr Malachy Keegan and Birute Briute Ph.D. at Nazareth House, 169-175 Hammersmith Rd, London Rd, W6 8DB on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 10am-3pm. Booking is required. For further details and registration please contact [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or call at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation is £12 to cover the costs. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch.

**The Society of St Gregory** Is the national Catholic Society for Liturgy. On November 9<sup>th</sup> it holds a Winter Assembly at the church of Our Lady, St John's Wood, NW8 8LA. Mass will be celebrated at 12noon, with Bishop Alan Hopes presiding. At 3pm Bishop Kieran Conry, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, will deliver the Crichton Memorial Lecture. Full details of the day are posted in the Church porch.

**Gunnersbury Catholic School** Are holding an Open Evening for prospective Sixth Form Students and their families on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 6-7pm.

**Pilgrims Progress** The November edition is available in the Church porch.

**Urgently Seeking Accommodation** 1 double bedroom on its own or a 1 double bedroom flat for the next 4 weeks. Please call Edna on 07776 174590.

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 4<sup>th</sup> October** Thank you for your generous response - £1,848.53 was donated towards CAFOD's work in the developing world.