



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)

19th January 2014 ~ Second Sunday of the Year A

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

'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will'. These words are taken from today's responsorial psalm. They form a bridge between the 1st Reading and the Gospel. In the 1st Reading we are told about God choosing and preparing a very, very special servant for Himself. He would be a light to the nations and would bring the Lord's salvation to the ends of the earth. That prophecy was fulfilled in Christ. At His baptism the Father recognised Jesus as His beloved Son or Servant, and in the power of the Spirit.

He began to preach the Kingdom of God. The words, *'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will'* sum up Christ's life-long openness and obedience to his Father's will. This would take Him to Gethsemane and the cross.

Today's Gospel is about John the Baptist's mission - to prepare the way of the Lord, firstly by urging the people to repent, then by pointing out Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. Finally, John would prepare Jesus Himself for His mission by baptizing Him. John realized that his personal mission was limited. Having done what God asked of him he was prepared to slip into the background so that Jesus could take centre stage.



'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will' sums up what should be our response to our Christian vocation. At our baptism God calls each one of us to serve Him and our neighbour. There are many ways in which we can do that. For most of us it will be as married or single lay people. Here also there are many possibilities. God will call others to serve Him in the priesthood or religious life. Each of us will have a particular and limited role in cooperating with God's plan for the salvation to the world.

Most of us experience the stretched-out anguish of being uncertain what God is asking of us. Long and distressing though this uncertainty may be, it may be an essential part of God's plan for us during that particular time. He wants us to learn to wait on the Lord and to learn to be patient with Him and ourselves. If so, we will need a great deal of trust to believe God knows what He's doing, even if we don't. In this, and in all else, we should pray, *'Thy will be done,'* as we place ourselves in God's hands. It's very hard to say and really mean such a prayer. All too often we attempt to make God our servant, rather than our being His - as though we could manipulate Him into doing our will, rather than our being set on doing His.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 18th January (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 George Burnett (Int)
Sunday 19th – 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
08.30 Annette & Danny Fadian (Anniv)
10.00 People of the Parish
11.30 Elsa Dias (30th Anniv)
Monday 20th – Feria, Second Week of Year 2
09.30 Mr. John Francis Rodrigues RIP
Tuesday 21st – St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
09.30 Sally & Paddy Sloane RIP & Paul Cleland RIP
Wednesday 22nd – Feria
19.00 Geraldine Kilcoyne (Ill)
Thursday 23rd – Feria
09.30 Kevin McClelland RIP
Friday 24th – St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor
09.30 Dennis McMullen 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, Josee Tanner, Sr Maeve McDevitt, Veronica Dolan, Maria Porrello.

Pray Also For, Elsa Dias, Flora Buhagiar, William Quinn, John Twomey, Bridget Walsh, William Enwright, Kitty O'Connor, Annette Motley, Ariti Papson, Ida Buhagiar, Edris Morris, Herbert Green, James Horkan, Denise Mitchell and Henry Kobus whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Maria Porrello who has died. Requiem Mass on Friday, 24th January at 12 Noon at St. Luke's, Pinner followed by burial at New Southgate Cemetery, Finchley. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

Veronica Dolan RIP (previous parishioner) Funeral on Wednesday, 22nd January at 9.45am at Christ the King, Eastbourne followed by burial at Pinner New Cemetery at 2.45pm.

Ecce Sacerdos Magnus Many congratulations to Archbishop Nichols, who is to be made a cardinal by Pope Francis on February 22nd. There will be a Solemn Mass of Welcome for Cardinal Vincent in Westminster Cathedral at 5.30pm on Friday, 28th February. In a letter, the pope has told all the new cardinals that this is to be seen not so much as a promotion but as further opportunity to serve the people of God in the church. In other words, don't let the hat go to your head!

The Parish Project Thanks to the mild weather and the hard work of our builders the project is still on schedule and the majority of the external demolition has been completed. Now all the debris will be taken away and the ground prepared for the new foundations. You can keep up to date with what is happening by following us on Twitter @SJFHarrow, where you will find a photographic diary.

Church Cleaning Takes place on Saturday morning between 8-11am. If you can spare an hour during that time please let Ann Anderson know and she will tell you when you will be needed.

Welcome Ministry Rota Is ready for collection in the porch.

Planned Giving Envelopes This is not an appeal! However, I know there was a mix up over envelopes in 2013 and I would like to get it sorted for 2014. So, if you requested envelopes but did

not receive them, or have any queries over envelopes, standing orders, or Gift Aid, I will be in the porch after all Masses this weekend. *Ann Anderson*

SVP Lottery Tickets for this years' Grand SVP Lottery will be on sale in the porch after all Masses this weekend. All contributions gratefully received, as it is our main fund raising event. For prizes and details, please see the poster on the porch notice board.

Parish Coffee Morning Please join us at our coffee morning on Sunday, 26th January 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.

St John Fisher Social Club Membership subscriptions can be renewed during club opening hours or after Mass in the porch this weekend. Please note our AGM is on Sunday, 9th February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

Mary's Meals "Rags to riches" collection will take place the weekend of 15th/16th February, so please collect together unwanted clothing (the condition does not matter) to bring to the church that weekend. Please do not bring before then and only textiles.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 20th - 25th January The theme for this year is "Has Christ been Divided?" Pope Francis has said "Yes, for me ecumenism is a priority". On Monday 20th **St John Fisher at Elmfield Church** will hold an ecumenical prayer service at 12 Noon for about half an hour. Please support the Parish Ecumenical Team and Musicians and then enjoy some light refreshments. CTNH services will be held at Noon on: Tuesday - North Harrow Methodists; Wednesday - Rayners Lane Baptists; Thursday - St George's; Friday - Elmfield; Saturday - St Alban's.

Westminster Cathedral Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes Will take place at 2pm on Saturday, 8th February. Archbishop Vincent Nichols will preside and the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome, no seat reservations or tickets. If you are bringing a wheelchair, please tell your parish priest so that he can reserve space for wheelchairs and carers.

Archbishop's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 7th June 2014 at 3pm The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2014. If you qualify, please contact Claudia on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 8429 5681 by **Friday, 28th February** with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or telephone number if no e-mail).

Vocation Discernment Group for men and women (aged 18 to 40) On Friday, 24th January: Fr Richard Nesbitt on "Relating Pope Francis' Evangelii Gaudium to our own vocational journeys". Prayer, input and discussion, 7-9pm in the Hinsley Room, next to Westminster Cathedral. For more info contact Fr Richard at richardnesbitt@rcdow.org.uk.

Accommodation Required Mature couple relocating from Ireland to Harrow in April 2014 are looking for a bedsit with own bathroom or a one bedroom flat to rent in Harrow or surrounding areas. Needs to be a quiet area with good transport links and reasonable rent. Please contact + 00353 087 7532181 or email lavin.martina@gmail.com.