



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)

2nd March 2014 ~ Eighth 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

Adam's sin meant that he turned away from the easy, natural, harmonious relationship with God into which he was created, and the loss of this friendship with God meant that his relationship with creation also became fraught, marked by toil and sweat and anguish and pain. Matters that should have been sources of pure delight became instead troubles and anxieties.

We, however, have been reborn in Jesus Christ, the second Adam. The one whom Mary mistook for the gardener after his resurrection is the True Gardener indeed, because as he reconciles humanity to God he also reconciles us to creation, re-ordering our relationship with the material world so that we can work in harmony with it rather than struggle with it in a battle of wills.



Because, ironically, the slavery to Mammon - in all its forms, of which the Lord speaks in today's Gospel is the result of our attempt to enslave the created world to ourselves, to subdue it, to trample upon nature in a desire to be Lords of Creation. This human arrogance in trying to enslave our world to the will of man has had results that are all too plain to see, and it's plain that more than anything it is greed - greed for money, power, status - that is at the root of all this. And the harder we try to enslave creation to ourselves, the more we make ourselves the slaves of Mammon.

Adam and Eve were not placed in an unspoilt wilderness but in a garden. A garden is a place where man and nature co-operate, working together in harmony to bring beauty and order. In a garden, there is no subjugation, no arrogance, and the garden is not a place for fretting and anxiety but for ease and delight.

Now, what Christianity offers is not a return to Eden - the fruit once tasted cannot be untasted, and the naive simplicity of Adam and Eve before the fall can never be ours. What we are offered in Christ is a calling so much greater: as our second reading today says, we have been made 'stewards of the mysteries of God'. The stewardship of creation offered to Adam and Eve has become part of a greater calling, for we are stewards not only of nature but of supernature - the very life of God which is shared with us in Christ Jesus.

Fr. Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 1st March (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Owen Doone (Anniv)

Sunday 2nd – 8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Clement Onwuachu (Anniv)

11.30 John Tyrrell RIP

Monday 3rd – Feria, Eighth Week of Year 2

09.30 Brendan Connolly (Int)

Tuesday 4th – Feria

09.30 Joseph Emmanuel Vedanayagam RIP

Wednesday 5th – **ASH WEDNESDAY**

(Please note both Masses will take place in Church.)

09.30 Monica Fitzmaurice (Anniv) *(some classes from St. John Fisher School will attend this mass)*

19.00 John Campbell RIP

Thursday 6th – Lent Feria

09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP

Friday 7th – Lent Feria

09.30 Mary Meeks 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, John Campbell, Pipe Major Terry Maginn, John O'Hanlon.

Pray Also For Owen Doone, Clement Onwuachu, Monica Fitzmaurice, Archie O'Brien, François Joseph, Helen Cronin, Delia Murphy, Noel Johns, John Dignam, Veronica Furie, Doris McNulty, Helen Leahy, John Rogers, Brian Morahan, Gilvert Lee, Ghandy Mangani, Irene Smith, Margaret Turner, Maria McCullough and Donal Ryan whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Eileen Steinitz who has died. Requiem Mass on Thursday, 6th March 2014 at 11.00am at Our Lady and St. Thomas of Canterbury, Harrow on the Hill followed by a committal service at 1.00pm at Northwood Cemetery. Refreshments afterwards at Northwood Golf Club – see notice board for details. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to Eileen's family and friends.

Baptisms We welcome Joshua Capon, Ava D'Cruz and Thomas Patterson who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Fairtrade Stall In the porch next weekend after the 6pm and 8.30am Masses and in the Parish Hall after the 10am and 11.30am Masses. We are taking orders for the 'Real Easter Eggs' which include a booklet with the Easter story.

Coffee Morning To celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight our coffee morning on Sunday, 9th March after the 10am and 11.30am Masses will be joining Traidcraft's "Big Brew" event to support and raise funds for this charity. A selection of cakes made with Traidcraft ingredients will be on sale along with other goodies. All proceeds will be split between the Parish and Traidcraft.

Italian Evening On Saturday, 29th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Sign up sheets can be found in the Church porch. The tickets cost £20 for adults and £8 for children (under 12 years) which includes a three course Italian meal with wine and entertainment. It promises to be a brilliant evening and all funds raised will go towards the parish project.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 6th March 2014 at 8pm in the Social Club.

Parish Lent Groups Contact Tony McWilliams on 8868 3205 or Neville Bayross on 8863 8876. Please see notice in porch.

Pancake Evening – Tuesday, 4th March We will be cooking and serving pancakes in our church hall on pancake day from 7pm-8.30pm. Have your pancakes made warm and ready for you. We welcome donations of pancakes or mix for us to cook. Try your pancakes topped from a variety of toppings including local honey. This honey will also be available in pots to buy. All donations help to raise money for St Luke's hospice on the night. During Lent, one of our local churches prepares each Saturday a soup and sandwich lunch for the same cause. Venues will be in this bulletin.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) There will be no meeting this week March 5th as the mass which usually precedes is longer, it is Ash Wednesday and the distribution of ashes. However, for the next meeting on Wednesday, 19th March we are having a fish and chips supper after mass, for anyone who would like to join us ring Bridie on 8868 2253 to give your name. Also, members wishing to attend the U.C.M Annual Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 22nd March meet at Rayners Lane station at 12.30pm.

Parish Women's Group New Zealand Evening On Thursday, 13th March at 8pm in the main hall of St. John Fisher's Parish Centre. Cost £1. Madeleine Wareing and Barbara Towell will be giving a talk and audio visual presentation on New Zealand. Why not come along and find out more about its natural beauty and places of interest to visit? In addition, you will be treated to New Zealand snacks - many actually flown in from Auckland! A voluntary offering of a bottle to share, however, would be greatly appreciated. Our New Zealand Evening, as is the Parish Women's Group, is open to all women in the Parish and their female friends. Visitors and new members will be made most welcome. For more information contact Barbara Towell at barbaratowell@sky.com or 020 8866 6665.

St. John Fisher School Fundraising Annual Dinner and Dance – Saturday, 22nd March 2014 from 7pm-2am At the Hilton Hotel, Hilton Way, Watford WD25 8HA. There will be a 3 course sit down meal followed by coffee, live music from the popular "All Souled Out", Disco & Grand prize draw. Dress Code is DJs or Lounge Suits for Gentlemen, posh frocks for Ladies. Tickets cost £30 per person. This is the first year this event has been opened up to parishioners and not just the parents of the school. It is a fantastic night and the purpose of the evening is to raise funds for classroom equipment for the children of our school. If you would like to join us for this very popular event please email friendsofstjohnfisher@yahoo.com.

Association of Separated & Divorced Catholics (ASDC) Next meeting will be on Monday, 3rd March at 8pm in St Bernard's Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics, whatever their situation, are welcome. For further info please contact Jill 8204 3714 or Eileen 8756 1284.

Accommodation Required Mature couple relocating from Ireland to Harrow in April 2014 want accommodation 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.

Stations of the Cross There will be no stations of the cross due to the building works.