



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)

9th February 2014 ~ Fifth Sunday of the Year A

The ancient philosopher Aristotle wrote somewhere that of all the five senses we possess, sight is the most valued. By the sense of sight, we understand most about the world. By their nature, human beings are creatures who, above all, want to see and understand.

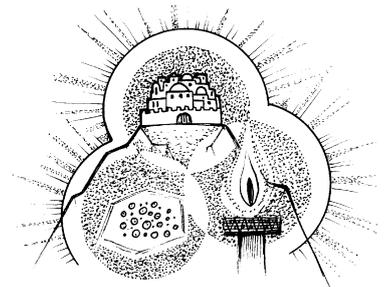
In today's readings the imagery of light and understanding are still vibrant and meaningful.

Isaiah reminds the people that if they act justly then 'Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you.'

This is a beautiful allusion to the pillar of fire by night and pillar of cloud by day, which was the Lord himself, who led the people out of their slavery in Egypt.

The glory of the Lord shines throughout the Old Testament, and is finally and fully revealed in the glorious light of the resurrection of Jesus.

In the gospel reading, Jesus links the idea of the visibility of a city on a hilltop, with a light shining to illuminate a room. Certainly Jesus would have known all the imagery that we find in the Book of Revelation, and is perhaps alluding to it here.



In Revelation the seer reports about the heavenly Jerusalem, 'I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and to it the kings of the earth will bring their treasure. During the day its gates will never be shut, and there will be no night there.'

The invitation of today's scripture readings is to be illuminated ourselves. By grace we can participate in the light of God, and can become a means of spreading that light to others.

The gift which God gives us especially to become enlightened through his grace is, of course, faith. By faith our intellect is strengthened and raised up, whether we are physically sighted or not, whether we are academically gifted or not, the gift of faith helps us see and understand. We must become familiar with the truths of the faith proposed for our belief by learning the Creed, by developing an authentic prayer life, by living a sacramental life in the Church and doing spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

By learning about the lives of the saints we see examples of God's grace in action. Although the gift of Faith is entirely God's gift, entirely his initiative, it also becomes part of who we really are, and changes us and raises us up to be fellow-workers of Christ. In all of this, the imagery of light, understanding, and vision is a way of helping understand the transforming power of the gift of Faith.

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

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 8th February (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Mrs. Angela Clusker (2nd Anniv)
Sunday 9th – 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
08.30 People of the Parish
10.00 Cynthia Smith (Anniv)
11.30 Bridie Kerins RIP
Monday 10th – St Scholastica, Virgin
09.30 Mr. Noel Jayasingam RIP
Tuesday 11th – Feria, Fifth Week of Year 2
09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP
Wednesday 12th – Feria
19.00 Mrs. Keogh RIP
Thursday 13th – Feria
09.30 Mary Connolly (Int)
Friday 14th – STS CYRIL, Monk, and METHODIUS, Bishop, Patrons
of Europe
09.30 Kathleen Feeney 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, Mrs. Magdalen Saverimuthu.

Pray Also For Mrs. Angela Clusker, Cynthia Smith, Neil Browne, Joe Donoghue, Patricia Martin, Deva Rajakarier, Florence Else, Donald Bayross, Martha Dyball, Tessa Corrigan, Bernard Hickin, Patrick Hannigan, Teresa Fernandes, Albert Smith, Joan Hickey, Denny Bowles, George Ransley, Winnie McDonagh, Nora Broderick, Fr Jeremy D’Cruz, Kathleen Beesley, Cecilia Woodhall, Aurora Fernandes, David Notley, Bridget Davis, (baby) Terisa Stokes and John Duffy whose anniversaries occur at this time.

The Parish Project Keep up to date on what is happening by following us on Twitter @SJFHarrow.

St John Fisher Social Club AGM Today at 7.30pm in the small hall.

‘Planning our future’ pamphlet Please take a pamphlet from the Church porch if you didn’t get a copy last weekend. Thank you to everyone who responded so far.

Italian Evening Please keep Saturday, 29th March at 7.30pm free. There will be delicious food and fabulous entertainment. All funds raised will go towards the parish project.

We welcome Fr Tony Pellegrini and Fr Martin McPake who will be helping with the celebration of mass over the coming weeks.

Mary's Meals "Rags to riches" collection will take place next weekend so please collect together unwanted clothing, towels, sheets, belts, handbags, shoes, curtains (the condition does not matter) to bring to the church. Please do not bring before then and only textiles.

CTNH – Lent House Groups “Build on the Rock - Faith, doubt and Jesus” – a course of five sessions. Attached to this newsletter is the information and application form to join a house group during Lent. Please return your application form next Sunday.

Mass with Solemn Rite of Welcome for Cardinal Vincent Nichols
On Friday, 28th February at 5.30pm in Westminster Cathedral.
This “Mass of Welcome” is open to anyone who wishes to come.
There will be no tickets issued so please come as early as possible to get a seat.

Catholic Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships For the last eleven years the Catholics Bishops Conference has organised Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships for recently graduated Catholics. This year we are offering 8 internships: four interns will be placed with Christian MPs at Westminster; one in a parliamentary support role within the Bishops’ Conference Secretariat; one in each of the Catholic Agencies (CAFOD and CSAN) in a public policy role; and one in a media internship in Archbishop’s House Westminster. Internships will run from September 2014 - July 2015 incl. accommodation and subsistence allowances. Full details and an application form can be found on our website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/interns>. Completed application forms and references must either be emailed to interns@cbcew.org.uk or posted to: Michaela Kelly, Head of HR, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX. The closing date is 5pm on Wednesday, 26th February 2014; the Assessment days will be 1st and 2nd April 2014. If you know anyone who may be interested in this opportunity, please encourage them to apply.

Diocese of Westminster Fairtrade Celebration On 1st March 2014 at 2pm in Holy Apostles Parish Hall, 47 Cumberland Street, Pimlico SW1V 4LY. The event is open to anyone who is interested but you need to register to attend. For more details please visit <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/justice-and-peace-events/>.

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).



Would you please consider buying a brick or two in order to support re-furbishing the Sanctuary? Bricks cost £10 each and we will issue a Certificate of Thanks for every brick that you buy. Please fill out the form below and return it to Fr Shaun at the presbytery. Cheques should be made payable to St John Fisher Church.

PLEASE PRINT

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Number of bricks @ £10 each.....

Total Amount £.....

Name of Person you wish to appear on the certificate
.....