



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)

16th February 2014 ~ Sixth 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

Today's gospel follows on from last week's as it is all from the Sermon on the Mount. Last week we were a light, this week that same light needs to be the "right light". "For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into heaven" – these were religious leaders of the day who interpreted the scriptures.



They thought highly of themselves and many bragged about how holy they were and how good they were in keeping the religious laws they had been given.

Jesus says, "If your virtue goes no deeper...." and then he continues, and without any doubt this sort of passage will make many people in the modern age, even Christians, perhaps especially Christians, liable to find uncomfortable.

It is a speech made by Christ in anger, for unless we understand that anger can be a necessary good thing, then we can't begin to understand this passage. Christ was angry because he was reasonable but also he was angry because he knew what the kingdom could be.

Anger is not in itself a sin, even though it leads to many sins. St Thomas Aquinas has a simple argument for that: Our Lord was angry, and he was without sin. He says more though. Thomas divides emotions into two groups, following and developing a tradition which stems from Plato. There are passions - as he calls them - that are from our capacity to desire things, and there are passions that are from our capacity to be angry about things.

The important word there is things. Thomas calls emotions passions because some object is acting upon them. A passion is a sort of passivity. The object might be imaginary, but there is always some object producing the passion. Most of the time the objects are real enough and a failure to react to them is a defect. There's a big difference though between passions which flow from reason, and reason which is governed by the emotion. Reason is not opposed to emotion, nor is it separate from emotion, reason generates emotion, and the absence of the emotion where it should be, is a sign of flawed reason.

Thomas also says in *Prima Secundae*, Question 46, Article 2, 'anger is always accompanied by hope'. Does that sound strange? Well, we have to go a little further into the meaning of anger. Anger is the emotion that seeks to change things. That is why anger ends in one of two ways. Either the angry person succeeds in changing the object of their anger, or accepts that it can't be changed. Anger therefore has no opposite emotion. Either we are angry or we are not. Hope is the emotion which believes that it is possible for some good to come out of some evil. Without hope, we could not be angry because we could not have any expectation that our anger could do anything to change things.

It is true that anger comes to end in Heaven, but then so does hope. Hope, fear and anger belong to a world where there is evil but since we live in a world where there is evil, it is good for us to have these emotions. Our Lord, while he lived on earth, was angry. His anger was for the sake of the kingdom. In short, he was angry because he loved us.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 15th February (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Breda Hoft & Pat Ryan (Anniv)
Sunday 16th – 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
08.30 Patricia & Sylvester Rebbitt (Anniv)
10.00 Mrs. Peggy Froh (Special Intention)
11.30 People of the Parish
Monday 17th – Feria, Sixth Week of Year 2
09.30 Don Weeks RIP
Tuesday 18th – Feria
09.30 David Hooper RIP
Wednesday 19th – Feria
19.00 Elizabeth Connolly RIP
Thursday 20th – Feria
09.30 John & Nora Riordan (Anniv)
Friday 21st – Feria
09.30 P.D. Devasia (2nd Anniv)
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, Elizabeth Connolly, Anthony Dwyer.

Pray Also For Breda Hoft & Pat Ryan, Patricia & Sylvester Rebbitt, John & Nora Riordan, P.D. Devasia, Eileen Reilly, Ann Kelleher, Oswald McCarthy, Sheila Wlodarczyk, Theresa Orakwue, Agnes D'Souza, Winifred Roach, John Foley, Gabriel Dias, Lil Cawley, Joan Chan, Delia Burke, Francis Roberts, Thomas Martin, Margaret Caden and Séamus Browne whose anniversaries occur at this time.

The Parish Project For the latest follow us on Twitter @SJFHarrow.

Fairtrade Stall In the porch after all Masses next weekend.

UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers) Our meeting after 7pm Mass on Wednesday, 19th February will be with a yoga instructor. She will be teaching us stretching and breathing. If you are interested, but not a member, please do come, you are very welcome.

Italian Evening On Saturday, 29th March at 7.30pm. More details to follow. All funds raised will go towards the parish project.

CTNH – Lent House Groups There is a box in the church porch where you can leave completed application forms after Sunday masses. It is on the right hand side on the small window sill as you leave the church. All applications will be acknowledged. If you have applied, but have not heard by 3rd March please email or call marriedwin99@yahoo.co.uk, 020 8248 4997. We will do our best to accommodate late applications.

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.

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).

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. They will run from Sept 2014 - July 2015 incl. accommodation and subsistence allowances. Full details and an application form can be found at 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. Closing date is 5pm on Wednesday, 26th February 2014; the Assessment days will be 1st and 2nd April 2014.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers 2014 If you have any vouchers for St. John Fisher School then please **either put them in the collection or hand them into the presbytery.** *Many thanks.*

Diocese of Westminster Vacancy A Parish Cleaner is required to maintain high levels of cleanliness within the parish presbytery to the parish at St Gregory the Great, South Ruislip. The successful applicant will ideally have experience in a similar role and must possess excellent organisational skills and the ability to work with complete discretion. **Salary:** £9-10 per hour (neg); **Hours of work:** 6 hours per week (Mon-Fri 9am-12noon); **Closing date:** 25 February 2014; **Interview date:** 6 March 2014. For more details visit www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/.



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

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