



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)

23rd February 2014 ~ Seventh 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

Jesus summons his disciples to even more challenging acts of moral imagination: to abandon retaliation and to love their enemies. These principles were revolutionary in their day. Jesus is quoting what modern scholars label the Holiness Code, in Leviticus, commonly dated to the sixth century BC. Many of its moral injunctions, particularly about sexuality, are horrifying. On the other hand, perspectives open up which are not without significance in the moral domain today. Whatever the date of composition, Leviticus pictures very graphically a primitive tribal society in which, for one thing, wreaking vengeance on neighbours who injure you was normal practice, even an obligation in honour.

'Anyone who kills a human being shall be put to death. Anyone who kills an animal shall make restitution for it, life for life. Anyone who maims another shall suffer the same injury in return: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: the injury inflicted is the injury to be suffered' (Leviticus 24: 17-20).

As regards the principle of loving neighbours the text goes as follows: 'You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord' (Lev 19: 18).

In fact, the divine command here does not stop with one's own kith and kin: 'When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress him' - on the contrary, 'you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God' (Lev 19:34). But aliens are one thing; there is no mention of loving your enemies.

It's a beautiful chapter. The injunctions that God gives to Moses include leaving part of the crops in the fields and grapes in the vineyards in order to provide food for the poor and the aliens; being fair in all dealings with neighbours and employees; acting justly towards family and neighbours; showing deference to the aged; practising honesty in all business transactions, and much else. Loving others, clearly, means treating them justly, in a myriad of everyday ways. Nowhere, however, is there any mention of being just to one's enemies.



What Jesus proposes, then, is that, rather than require compensation, you might overwhelm the wrongdoer by incredible generosity; and secondly, you might treat your enemies with the same justice as your neighbours.

In the world that we live in, as the media bear witness every day, retaliation is often wildly disproportionate. Family homes are demolished, whole villages punished, for one individual's transgression. Men murder their children to get even with their estranged wives. As for loving one's neighbours, if it includes generosity to the needy, deference to the elderly, honesty in business transactions, and suchlike, aren't we so far short of the principles in the Leviticus Holiness Code that we are simply not yet ready to hear the Sermon on the Mount?

To Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 22nd February (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Con Shanahan (Anniv)
Sunday 23rd – 7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
08.30 Ann & Patrick Kilcoyne (Anniv)
10.00 People of the Parish
11.30 Michael Anderson (Anniv)
Monday 24th – Feria, Seventh Week of Year 2
09.30 Joe Kelly RIP
Tuesday 25th – Feria
09.30 Maurice Malone RIP
Wednesday 26th – Feria
19.00 Winefred Bushell (Anniv)
Thursday 27th – Feria
09.30 Intention of Donor
Friday 28th – Feria
09.30 Paddy Sloane (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.

Pray Also For Con Shanahan, Ann & Patrick Kilcoyne, Michael Anderson, Winefred Bushell, Paddy Sloane, Joe Reilly, Aristides Cordoba, Kitty Tully, John Noble, Leon St. Hill, Nanette Burke, Joanna Roberts, Catherine Lissemore, Dina Frate, Trevor Dunkley, Patrick Savage, Eugenia Chellotti, George Niznik, James Small, Thomas Lee, Francis Roberts, Joan Barry, Jack O’Gorman, Istvan Papp, Katherine Obi, Margaret Caden and Sylvester Rebbitt whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Fairtrade Stall In the porch after all Masses this weekend.

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

Bethany Group Next meeting on Thursday, 27th February at 7.30pm in the **small hall**.

Mary’s Meals Many thanks for all your efforts last weekend. The total raised was £970. St. John Fisher parishioners raised enough money to feed 90 children a good meal every school day for a whole year. These children will also receive an education in the process. *Gerrard McMahon, London Fundraising Co-ordinator*

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.

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. 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.

Churches Together in North Harrow - Lent House Groups If you would like to join a group, please let us have your details as soon as possible and we will do our best to accommodate everyone. So far only fourteen applications have been received. Unless more people apply it is therefore likely that we will be unable to form any viable groups this year. Phone 020 8248 4997 or e-mail mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk or by post to 58 Kingsfield Avenue, HA2 6AS.

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.

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).

Pilgrims Progress The March edition, including details of CTinNH Lent Activities, is available in the Church porch.



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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