



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 March 2014 ~ First Sunday of Lent A: The Temptation of Jesus

In 'The Joy of the Gospel' Pope Francis says Christians are tempted to give up or distort our mission to spread the Good News.

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

Selfishness and spiritual sloth: At a time when we most need a missionary dynamism which will bring salt and light to the world, many lay people fear that they may be asked to undertake some apostolic work and they seek to avoid any responsibility that may take away from their free time. For example, it has become very difficult today to find trained parish catechists willing to persevere in this work for some years. Something similar is also happening with priests who are obsessed with protecting their free time. This is frequently due to the fact that people feel an overbearing need to guard their personal freedom, as though the task of evangelization was a dangerous poison rather than a joyful response to God's love which summons us to mission and makes us fulfilled and productive.

Question: *With so many other things to do, are we tempted to shy away from committing ourselves to our mission? What would encourage us?*

Isolation: Many try to escape from others and take refuge in the comfort of their privacy or in a small circle of close friends, renouncing the realism of the social aspect of the Gospel. Meanwhile, the Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their plea, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness.

Question: *Who are the people we are tempted to avoid? How can we ensure our community is open to all and at the service of all?*

Warring among ourselves: How many wars take place within the people of God and in our different communities! In our neighbourhoods and in the workplace, how many wars are caused by envy and jealousy, even among Christians! Spiritual worldliness leads some Christians to war with other Christians who stand in the way of their quest for power, prestige, pleasure and economic security. Some are even no longer content to live as part of the greater Church community but stoke a spirit of exclusivity, creating an "inner circle". Instead of belonging to the whole Church in all its rich variety, they belong to this or that group which thinks itself different or special.

Question: *Do any groups in our community appear to be exclusive? How can we make clear that God has no favourites?*

Franciscus

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 8th March (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 In Thanksgiving – 50th Wedding Anniversary – Eddie & June Collins

Sunday 9th – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 Anna Rosa D'Souza (Anniv)

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Johnna Pedersen RIP

Monday 10th – Lent feria

09.30 Joseph Emmanuel Vedanayagam RIP

Tuesday 11th – Lent feria

09.30 Eileen Steinitz RIP

Wednesday 12th – Lent feria

19.00 Ernie McDowell RIP

Thursday 13th – Lent Feria

09.30 All Deceased Members of Ryan, Crick & Moore Families RIP

Friday 14th – Lent Feria

09.30 Bill McGee 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, Una Cawley, Ernie McDowell, Bill McGee, Catherine Fraser, J. O'Connor, Marie Batty, Clare Burke, Ned O'Dwyer.

Pray Also For Anna Rosa D'Souza, John Orogun, Mary Cross, Michael Carolan, Mel Stiffle, Anna Castignetti, Rowland Kenworthy, Bruno Castignetti, Edward Goulding, Bob Le Forestier, Jack Conway, Charlie O'Brien, Kathleen Hayes, Derrick Mitchell, Delores Atkins, Catherine Cattigan, Joan Howard, John Forde, Giuseppe Marcellini, Milly Yarwood, Frederick Sutherland, John Cahill, Norma Mesquita, Veronica Marzollini, (baby) Melissa Ferreira and Ann Devine whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Friday, 14th March is CAFOD Lent Fast Day. CAFOD is working with poor communities around the world on our behalf, helping them to tackle poverty and injustice. Fast Days are our opportunity to support this vital work. Attached to this newsletter is your Fast Day envelope. Please collect a prayer card from the porch and consider fasting and praying in solidarity next Friday. We will collect your Fast Day envelopes and offerings after all our Masses next weekend. *Thank you.*

Buy a Brick - Certificate of Thanks Please collect your certificate from the pigeon hole in the porch. Thank you very much for your support in this.

Fairtrade Stall In the porch this 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 Today after the 10am and 11.30am Masses we 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 & Traidcraft.

Italian Evening On Saturday, 29th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Sign up sheets in the Church porch. Tickets cost £20 for adults and £8 for children (under 12 yrs) which includes a three course Italian meal with wine and entertainment. All funds raised will go towards the parish project.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Next meeting on Wednesday, 19th March when we are having a fish and chips supper after

Mass. If you would like to join us please ring Bridie on 8868 2253. 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. 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. This evening, as is the Parish Women's Group, is open to all women in the Parish and their female friends. For more info contact Barbara Towell at barbaratowell@sky.com or 020 8866 6665.

Pancake evening £88.12 was raised for St. Luke's Hospice. A big thank you to all who came. The pancakes and local honey were proving popular, all round a good social evening. Madeleine and Angela appreciated all the help in the kitchen. Next event to raise money for St Luke's is lunch at the Methodist church, Pinner Road on Saturday, 15th March at 12.30pm, we hope to see you.

CTiNH - Lent House Groups There will be 4 groups meeting once a week for 5 weeks, Monday & Tuesday morning, Tuesday & Wednesday evening, starting in the week beginning Sunday, 9th March. There is still room available in the groups meeting on Monday and Tuesday. Call 8248 4997 or e-mail mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk.

St Joan of Arc Catholic School, Rickmansworth Are hosting an evening of Lenten reflection on Thursday, 13th March at 7pm-8.30pm. The evening will be led by Jenny Baker who is a popular public speaker, evangelist, mission leader within the Catholic Church. It will be a space to stop, learn, discuss and pray for our own Lenten journeys and how we can help our families experience a fruitful Lent for a truly joyous Easter. Attendance is FREE but RSVP at admin@joa.herts.sch.uk or call 01923 773881.

Parish Pilgrimage The next instalment for the pilgrimage is due around 17th March 2014 and should be sent to Anthony Coles at the address you have been given.



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

.....