



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)

16th March 2014 ~ Second Sunday of Lent A: The Transfiguration

Pope Francis insists that we can experience the wonder of a personal encounter with Jesus, and it will transform our lives, filling us with a joy we cannot help but share. The disciples were filled with joy during this new experience of the presence of Christ.

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

The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.

Question: *Can I recall a time when I experienced a personal encounter with Jesus? What were the circumstances? How can I open myself to that experience every day?*

Pope Francis reflects that an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that "delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing, even when it is in tears that we must sow... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ". [10] (quoting Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 1975)

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

Question: *When have I seen the joy of the Gospel on someone's face? What helps me to overcome feelings of dejection or discouragement?*

Pope Francis reflects that people are sometimes put off the Church because of the way its representatives behave. At other times, they may be drawn in by the warmth of our welcome. Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone. Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet. It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but "by attraction".

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

Question: *Do I know anyone who feels they have been hurt or rejected by the church? What would help them to feel welcome again?*

Seeing Jesus in glory helped Peter, James and John to cope with the traumatic events that would happen later. Our encounters with Jesus can give us hope too.

Christ, risen and glorified, is the wellspring of our hope, and he will not deprive us of the help we need to carry out the mission which he has entrusted to us.

Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit. On razed land life breaks through, stubbornly yet invincibly. However dark things are, goodness always re-emerges and spreads. Each day in our world beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history.

Question: *When have I found hope in the midst of suffering or darkness? What signs of new life can encourage people today?*

Franciscus

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 15th March (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Marie & Ernie Crompton (Anniv)
Sunday 16th – 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
08.30 Joseph Bayross RIP
10.00 Delphi Saldanha (Anniv)
11.30 People of the Parish
Monday 17th – ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland
09.30 Intention of Donor
Tuesday 18th – Lent feria
09.30 Eileen Steinitz RIP
Wednesday 19th – **ST. JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese**
19.00 Mrs. A. Tambinayagam RIP
Thursday 20th – Lent Feria
09.30 Tom & Nora Forde (Anniv)
Friday 21st – Lent Feria
09.30 Mrs. V. Karunaratna 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, Stanislaus Stephen, Mrs. A. Tambinayagam, Mrs. V. Karunaratna.

Pray Also For Marie & Ernie Crompton, Delphi Saldanha, Tom & Nora Forde, Eric McCarthy, Margaret McKenna, Sophie Swidzinska, Margaret Enright, Michael Wlodarczyk, Ernesto Placencia, Wijdan Marji, Jason Moore-Martin, Ted Finn, Maria Magdolna Braun, Anthony Caden, Lisa Alex, James O'Shea, Lisa Alex, James Finn, Elizabeth Cahill, Leon Casartelli, Beryl Barltrop, Sergio Carvalho, Stephen Forde, Catherine Maguire and Bertie Pillai whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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.

Confirmation candidates Are reminded that their next meeting is on Monday, 17th March at 7.30pm in the Church.

Altar Servers If you wish to serve on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, please sign up on the sheet in your sacristy so that everyone gets an opportunity to serve over these days.

Italian Evening Tickets are now ready for collection in the Church porch. Cheques made payable to "St. John Fisher Church". There are still tickets available – please either add your name to the sign up sheets in the porch or contact Claudia on 020 8429 5681/ claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk. **Helpers Needed** We will set up the hall for the evening from 12.30pm-1.30pm on Saturday, 29th March. Do remember, we will also need willing helpers to give a hand with cleaning up at the end of the evening.

Lent Penitential Services Because of the works to our church there will be no Penitential Service this Lent. Please find below a list of Penitential Services which will be held throughout the Deanery and to which you will be very welcome:
Tuesday 25th March, St William's Stanmore 8pm;
Saturday 12th April, St Theresa's Headstone Lane 10am;
Sunday 13th April, St Luke's Pinner 3-4pm;
Wednesday 16th April, St Joseph's Wealdstone 7.15pm.
Confession is also heard in the parish church every Saturday 5.15-6pm.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

8.30am, 9.30am (see note below), 11.30am

Holy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

9.30am Morning Prayer
1.00pm Children's Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
8.00pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

9.30am Morning Prayer
8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Mass as Normal

Easter Monday Mass at 11am

Palm Sunday – 13th April 10am Mass We will gather at 9.30am outside St. John Fisher Church in order to process to St. Alban's for an ecumenical Liturgy of the Word at 9.45am. Thereafter we will return to St. John Fisher for Mass which will resume at the offertory. Please make every effort to be on time and collect your palm so that we can leave together for this special occasion.

Palm Crosses Please come and help the UCM make crosses from the palm leaves in the small hall at 2pm on Thursday, 10th April. Bring a pair of scissors.

Lent Lunch Churches in North Harrow arrange to serve a light lunch on each Saturday during Lent. These raise money for St. Luke's Hospice who rely on voluntary contributions, as they have little NHS support. Last year combined around £1,700 was raised, including our pancake evening contribution. Do please go, dates as follows: March 22nd St George's, Pinner View; March 29th Rayners Lane Baptist Church, Imperial Drive; April 5th Elmfield Church, Imperial Drive; April 12th St Alban's Church on The Ridgeway. The last 3 churches are our near neighbours. There is no charge for the meal, just a box on the table for your donation.

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.

Parish Mission 2014 – Led by Franciscan Friars of the Renewal At St. William of York RC Church, Stanmore, daily from 22nd March to 27th March at 8pm. For full Mission Program please see poster and cards in Church porch.

Diocese of Westminster Youth Pilgrimage – Holy Land For 18-35 year olds to the land of Jesus on 17th to 26th November, 2014. Cost: £1,100. Please see poster on notice board in the porch.

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.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers 2013 If you have any vouchers for St. John Fisher School then please **either put them in the collection or drop them into the presbytery.** *Many thanks.*

CAFOD Lent Fast Day 14th March Please return your envelopes today. Thank you for your support. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.