



# 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)

## 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 ~ Third Sunday of Lent A: The Woman at the Well

The Gospel sheds light for us on the reflections of Pope Francis on how our parish communities are called to be places of welcome and inclusion so that people can experience the joy of the Gospel in their lives and respond appropriately.

Life is so busy, so rushed, yet Jesus found time to listen to the woman at the well. His spending time with her changed her life.

### *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

A Church which “goes forth” is a Church whose doors are open. Going out to others in order to reach the fringes of humanity does not mean rushing out aimlessly into the world. Often it is better simply to slow down, to put aside our eagerness in order to see and listen to others, to stop rushing from one thing to another and to remain with someone who has faltered along the way. At times we have to be like the father of the prodigal son, who always keeps his door open so that when the son returns, he can readily pass through it.

**Question:** *How can we find time for others and for God in our busy lives?*

In the Gospel passage the woman discovers that she is loved and so she is able to respond.

Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others. Under no circumstances can this invitation be obscured! All of the virtues are at the service of this response of love. If this invitation does not radiate forcefully and attractively, the edifice of the Church’s moral teaching risks becoming a house of cards, and this is our greatest risk. It would mean that it is not the Gospel which is being preached, but certain doctrinal or moral points based on specific ideological options. The message will run the risk of losing its freshness and will cease to have “the fragrance of the Gospel”.

**Question:** *How can we attract others towards the “fragrance of the Gospel” whilst being faithful to the moral teachings of the Church?*

The Samaritan Woman was seen by many as an “outsider”, but to God no one is excluded.

The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open. One concrete sign of such openness is that our church doors should always be open, so that if someone, moved by the Spirit, comes there looking for God, he or she will not find a closed door. There are other doors that should not be closed either. Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community, nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason. This is especially true of the sacrament which is itself “the door”: baptism. The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak. These convictions have pastoral consequences that we are called to consider with prudence and boldness. Frequently, we act as arbiters of grace rather than its facilitators. But the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems.

**Question:** *This challenges us to reflect on our pastoral practice: how can we live out what the Pope is suggesting? What are the “pastoral consequences”? Can we leave open the door of our Church?*

The way we picture the Church influences our thoughts and actions. Pope Francis invites us to consider a new model, which the woman of Samaria may have felt comfortable with.

The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds ...and you have to start from the ground up. [America magazine – September 2013]

**Question:** *What are the obvious wounds of those around us, what are the hidden wounds? How can we help to heal those wounds?*

### *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

*Franciscus*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Seamus & Neil Browne (Anniv)

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Brenda & Harry Kozminski (Anniv)

11.30 Stephen & Kathleen Forde (Anniv)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Barry Albert RIP

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

09.30 Eileen Steinitz RIP

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

19.00 Stanislaus Stephen RIP

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> – Lent Feria

09.30 Mary Riordan (Int)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Lent Feria

09.30 Intention of Donor

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**, Barry Albert.

**Pray Also For** Seamus & Neil Browne, Brenda & Harry Kozminski, Stephen & Kathleen Forde, Paul Esler, Alfred Hill, Stephen D’Cruz, Margaret Rogers, Josephine Doyle, Sabina Walsh, Charles Brown, Walter Jackson, Sean Kelly, Antonio Cacchioli, Michael Lee, Ned O’Neill, Ann Castell, Kathleen Truscott and Bernard Letchet whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**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.

**Friends for Friends & The 1:1 Club** At the end of this weekend’s masses, there will be a short appeal for new volunteers to help this local charity which supports people with learning disabilities. If you miss the appeal and/or you would like to know more, please contact us on 8869 9228; [info@friendsforfriends.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsforfriends.org.uk) or visit [www.friendsforfriends.org.uk](http://www.friendsforfriends.org.uk). Alternatively, contact John Towell from the music group on 8866 6665.

**Planned Giving 2014/15** Envelopes are available in the Church porch in **alphabetical order**. **Please collect your named box of envelopes as soon as possible but do not use them until Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April.** The majority of numbers have changed.

**Italian Evening** Tickets are ready for collection in the Church porch. Cheques made payable to “St. John Fisher Church”.

**Helpers Needed** We will set up the hall from 12.30pm-1.30pm on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March and we will also need willing helpers to clean 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 25<sup>th</sup> March, St William’s Stanmore 8pm; Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, St Theresa’s Headstone Lane 10am; Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, St Luke’s Pinner 3-4pm; Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, St Joseph’s Wealdstone 7.15pm.

**Palm Crosses** Please help the UCM make crosses from the palm leaves in the small hall at 2pm on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> April.

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

## 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

**The Parish Women’s Group** Have booked a guided visit to the Hindu temple in Neasden on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10am which will last about 2 hours and there is a small charge of £2 for entry to the exhibition. The temple is on a bus route from Wembley Park St & a group will travel from North Harrow. There is also a car park. All welcome but numbers are limited so book a place soon. Please email [sjfraidcraft@gmail.com](mailto:sjfraidcraft@gmail.com) or call 8863 1865.

**Churches Together in North Harrow** In the next few weeks we shall deliver an Easter Greetings Card to all houses in the Parish listing Easter church service times. If you have previously shared in this please tell us if you are available again. More volunteers are always needed. Contact [mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk) or call 8248 4997.

**Lent Lunch** Churches in North Harrow serve a light lunch on each Saturday during Lent which raises money for St. Luke’s Hospice who rely on voluntary contributions as they have little NHS support. On March 29<sup>th</sup> Rayners Lane Baptist Church, Imperial Drive; April 5<sup>th</sup> Elmfield Church, Imperial Drive; April 12<sup>th</sup> St Alban’s Church on The Ridgeway. There is no charge for the meal, just a donation.

**Action by Christians Against Torture (Harrow group)** Are holding an open meeting on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April at 8pm in the Jubilee room at St Alban’s church. All are welcome.

**CAFOD Lent Fast Day 14<sup>th</sup> March** You can still return your envelopes. Thank you for your support.



*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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