



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh, 020 8429 5681, claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk (9.30am-1.30pm, Mon-Wed-Fri)

30th March 2014 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent A: The Man Born Blind

Today's Gospel shows real growth in faith. Pope Francis challenges us to think about how seriously we are taking the call to share our faith with others.

Pope Francis reflects: The blind man responded to the gift of sight by sharing his new faith with others, but many things can stop us from doing the same. In some people we see an ostentatious preoccupation for the liturgy, for doctrine and for the Church's prestige, but without any concern that the Gospel have a real impact on God's faithful people and the concrete needs of the present time. In this way, the life of the Church turns into a museum piece or something which is the property of a select few. In others, this spiritual wordliness lurks behind a fascination with social and political gain, or pride in their ability to manage practical affairs, or an obsession with programmes of self-help and self-realisation. It can also translate into a concern to be seen, into a social life full of appearances, meetings, dinners and receptions. It can also lead to a business mentality, caught up with management, statistics, plans and evaluations whose principal beneficiary is not God's people but the Church as an institution.

Question: *Is sharing the Good News of God's mercy something we have forgotten about? Is it something important in my parish and in my life?*

Pope Francis reflects: The man born blind went round telling everyone about Jesus, but Christians sometimes want to pick and choose who receives the Good News. Being Church means being God's people, in accordance with the great plan of his fatherly love ... It means proclaiming and bringing God's salvation into our world, which often goes astray and needs to be encouraged, given hope and strengthened on the way. The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.

Question: *Who needs the Good News of God's mercy today?*

Pope Francis reflects: The Pharisees didn't think the man born blind was qualified to teach them, but that didn't stop him. In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptised, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelisation, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelisation to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelisation calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptised. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelisation; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples". If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: "We have found the Messiah"! (Jn 1:41). ... So what are we waiting for?

Question: *Whose job is it to share the joy of the Gospel?*

Pope Francis reflects: There is more to sharing the Good News than preaching. Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbours or complete strangers. In this preaching, which is always respectful and gentle, the first step is personal dialogue, when the other person speaks and shares his or her joys, hopes and concerns for loved ones, or so many other heartfelt needs. Only afterwards is it possible to bring up God's word.

Question: *How are we sharing the Gospel already through our parish and in our daily lives?*

Franciscus

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

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 29th March (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 May McDonagh (Anniv)

Sunday 30th – 4th SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 Alfred Hill (Anniv)

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Peter D'Mello (Anniv)

Monday 31st – Lent feria

09.30 Paul Jenkins – Speedy Recovery

Tuesday 1st April – Lent feria

09.30 Enas McNulty RIP

Wednesday 2nd – Lent feria

19.00 Sheila Henry (Int)

Thursday 3rd – Lent Feria

09.30 In Thanksgiving - Mary Theresa Saverimuttu – 80th Birthday

Friday 4th – Lent Feria

09.30 Ryan Litvinsky (Special Int)

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, Enas McNulty, Mary O'Malley, Jose Duran.

Pray Also For May McDonagh, Alfred Hill, Peter D'Mello, Barbara Dyt, Marian Blazek, Michael Stiffle, Quentin Gill, Clifford Perera, Phebe Martins, Avito Saldanha, Keith Bowker, Cecil Cobb, Marian O'Dean, Darren Jones, Maureen Orogun, Aldo Trombetti, Roman Sidorowicz and Mary Reidy 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.

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 and use them from Sunday, 6th April.** The majority of numbers have changed.

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: Sat 12th April, St Theresa's Headstone Lane 10am; Sun 13th April, St Luke's Pinner 3-4pm; Wed 16th April, St Joseph's Wealdstone 7.15pm.

Lent Lunch Churches in North Harrow will be serving two more lunches to raise money for St. Luke's Hospice at 12.30-2pm on April 5th Elmfield Church, Imperial Drive and April 12th St Alban's Church on The Ridgeway.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 3rd April 2014 at 8pm in the Upper Room.

Traidcraft Stall Will be open after all masses in the porch next weekend. 'Real Easter Eggs' and other Fairtrade chocolates on sale alongside the usual stock.

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

Churches Together in North Harrow Easter Cards If you have offered to help deliver the greetings cards please pick up your pack from the Church porch after Mass.

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

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

8.30am, 9.30am, 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, 12th April at 10am which will last about 2 hrs and there is a 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, email sjfracraft@gmail.com or call 8863 1865.

Union of Catholic Mothers Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 2nd April when we will have a quiz and social evening.

The Pylon - Parish magazine - Summer edition 2014 It is time again to ask you to write and send articles for the summer edition of our parish magazine, The Pylon. These could include: an account of a parish event or outing, memories of St John Fisher church/school, what a parish group has been up to since the Christmas edition or anything you may consider of interest to our readers. For the **Creative Writing Pages** we welcome **your own original writing**. This could be poetry, short stories, descriptive pieces, flash fiction or a very short script. It doesn't matter whether you are a child, teenager or adult. So take this opportunity to share your work on a theme of your choice; and get writing. Please include first and surname and provide an email address or contact number. If you are under 18, your age. The Pylon is **your magazine** so please contribute. Email Barbara Towell, Assistant Editor, to barbaratowell@sky.com or place in Barbara Towell's pigeonhole in the porch. **The deadline for the creative writing and articles is Sunday, 18th May 2014.**

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School Invites you to enter their Rights Respecting Schools competition to write a prayer to be used during acts of worship both in school and in the Parish. All entries must be word processed on A4 size paper and should focus on the Rights Respecting Schools agenda and received by noon on Friday, 16th May 2014. Please email them for the attention of Mrs O'Brien to office@st-johnfisher.harrow.sch.uk. Ensure your full name, age and school attended is written clearly on the top of your entry. The winner will be selected and announced in the school and Parish newsletter.

Action by Christians Against Torture (Harrow group) Are holding an open meeting on Tuesday, 1st April at 8pm in the Jubilee room at St Alban's church. Come and join us as we gather to pray and write letters on behalf of victims of persecution. All welcome.

Pilgrims Progress The April edition, including details of CTinNH's Good Friday Walk of Witness, is available in the porch.



Happy Mother's Day



We wish all mothers a very happy and relaxing day.