



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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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)

13th April 2014 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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

In today's extract from St Matthew's Gospel the crowds come out to welcome Jesus greeting him as the Son of David. They give him the Messianic title and acclaim him as the royal Son of God. As we know, it was probably members of this same enthusiastic crowd who, a few days later, shouted equally loud for his torture and death.

Matthew quotes from Zechariah who in a series of prophecies tells of the coming of the last king who will be a true prince of peace. He was writing against the memory of failed kings whose inadequacies and vanity had brought about the end of the kingdom of Judah. Zechariah tells the returned exiles from Babylon that the true king will come not as a tyrant robed in power and might, but gentle and humble and riding on a donkey. They had seen enough of powerful kings in the rulers of Babylon and their successors the Persian kings. In other words he would not seem like a king at all. His coming was to be so discreet that it would be possible to miss it. The advent of this king was sufficiently unusual as to be almost unrecognisable to those who witnessed it. It will appear to be the direct negative of much monarchical panoply.

Jesus's entry to Jerusalem, with its joyful abandon, which Matthew tells us, swept up even the children to participate in it, is a parody of a Roman triumph. He comes not on a warhorse but on a donkey, not fitted out with the trappings of majesty and the banners of victory but greeted with the waving of palm branches and piles of dusty garments. As Holy Week progresses the contrast between the imperial liturgy that surrounded Caesar, the earthly Lord of the World, and Jesus, the Incarnate Word through whom all things were made, becomes more marked. He is dressed in the parody of the imperial purple. He wears the thorny crown as a mock diadem. He bears the reed as the fake sceptre. Pilate presents him to the crowds for their acclamation and finally he is enthroned on the cross. The true prince, whom nobody can really see, is present all of the time and his true identity is revealed in the last scene of the drama.

At the end of Matthew's crucifixion scene the Centurion 'and those who were with him' said 'truly this man was the Son of God.' The representative of Caesar, standing beneath the throne of the cross acclaims the true king whose identity is now clear for all to see. Christ who submits to the yoke of the cross holds out his arms and says 'come to me all you who labour and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest.' 'I am gentle and lowly of heart and you will find rest for your souls.' The Centurion acknowledges there is another way and that there is another king than Caesar.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 12th April (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Special Intentions of the Lynch Family
Sunday 13th – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
08.30 Mary & Joe Patten (Anniv)
09.30 Avito Saldanha (Anniv)
11.30 People of the Parish
Monday 14th – MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK
09.30 Albert Smith RIP
Tuesday 15th – TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
09.30 Tim & Sian (Special Int)
Wednesday 16th – WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
19.00 Michael Hughes (Anniv)
MAUNDY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper
20.00 Sick & Recently Deceased of the Parish
GOOD FRIDAY
09.30 Morning Prayer
13.00 Children's Stations of the Cross
15.00 Celebration of the Lord's Passion
20.00 Stations of the Cross
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 Mary & Joe Patten, Avito Saldanha, Michael Hughes, Brian Walton, Frank Baldock, Joanne Flannery, Margaret Monahan, Phyllis Healy, Una Graydon, Bernard Devine, Patrick Kennedy, Teresa Kitchie, Joe & Nora Broderick, Mary Maher, Seamus O'Brien, Richard Plesner, Theresa Sundaram, Irene Hurst, Bridget Byrne, Trenton "Lloyd" Henry, Helen McNamara, Kathleen Forde, Alice Tobin, Nellie Connolly, William O'Riordan, Tom McCann and John Manners whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Altar Servers The rota is now on display in your sacristy for the services from Holy Thursday through to Easter Sunday. You need to be vested and wearing black shoes 30 minutes before the start of the service on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 15 minutes before on Sunday.

Holy Week Posters & Car Stickers Are available in the Church porch. Please take one to display in your home/car.

Cantemus Directed by Jean Coward, will sing Stabat Martyr by Bergolesi today at 3pm at St. John Fisher Church. Admission free.

Church Cleaning for Easter will take place at 4.00pm on Maundy Thursday.

Traidcraft Stall Open after all masses this weekend. On sale are 'Real Easter Eggs' and other Fairtrade chocolate and sweets.

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. 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. Please include first & surname, email address and/or tel number. If you are under 18, your age. The Pylon is **your magazine** so please contribute. Email Barbara Towell 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.**

Chrism Mass Takes place at Westminster Cathedral at 12 Noon on Tuesday, 15th April. Please keep the priests of the Diocese in your prayers on this day.

Good Friday Walk of Witness Will pass St John Fisher about 11.45am after Stations of the Cross and thereafter near each church so members of the congregations can join en route to St. George's, Pinner View. Please join in for all or part of the walk. For a map of the route please see the notice board in the 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
.....

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

St John Bosco Summer Camps A full programme of supervised summer activities at the SVP John Bosco Centre in Essex is offered to boys (8-14) and girls (9-12) during August - please see poster on notice board in the porch. For more information please contact Tony McWilliams of the SVP on 8868 3205. Two places can be provided by our parish SVP for families suffering financial hardship.

Westminster Youth Ministry – Future Events Please see posters on the Youth notice board at the back of the Church.

Westminster 25th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes – 20th–26th July 2014 Details of the pilgrimage are available in the porch. Fr. Shaun will be going Monday to Friday.

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome Meeting As you have been informed, we will be meeting on Friday, 25th April at 7.30pm in the small hall. If you are **unable** to attend please contact the Parish Office on 8868 7531.

Collection Please remember that on Good Friday we will be taking a collection for the charities that we are asked to support throughout the year.

Easter Offering In the porch you will find Easter Offering envelopes for Fr. Shaun. These offerings support him in his ministry here in the Parish and they will be collected over the Masses of Easter. Thank you for your kindness and generosity at this time.