



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)

4th May 2014 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

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

On the 11th May of May, next Sunday, we will celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and the religious life. In our diocese of Westminster God has blessed us with forty men who are training for the priesthood and who in due course will work in our parishes. This is more than double the number of men that were in training 10 years ago. This is wonderful news but it also means that we have to find £50 a day to fund each seminarian through his training. That's just under £20,000 a year for each student. The money that we raise covers tuition fees, books, accommodation and other items and courses that are necessary for the formation in the priesthood.

10 years ago we had 17 men in formation, now there are 40 men preparing for priesthood. That is an increase of 135%. We thank God for his grace in calling men to serve in our parishes and for the generous response of those who have been called and who are engaged in a long process of discernment and formation. But there is another reality that we have to address and that is that our annual collection to support the training of our future priests has not gone up by 135%.

On top of all this the seminary building is in need of modernisation and additional classrooms have to be built. In short the Priest Training Fund is having to spend more than is being brought in and that means that if we do not increase income for the fund the fund will run out of money in the next two to three years. This would be a tragedy at a time when so many men are answering the Lord's invitation to follow him by living their lives as priests.

There are two things that we can do to help. First and most importantly we can offer our prayers and secondly we can make a contribution to the collection which will be held next week for the Priest Training Fund. All we can ask is that you take the envelope, that has been attached to this week's newsletter, home with you. Make your offering and bring the envelope back with you next week. I am all too aware that many people have been adversely affected by the recession and that others are living on a small fixed pension. I am also aware that a significant number of people are now contributing to "Growing in Faith". But it really is very important that we encourage those who are in a position to do so to contribute as much as they can afford to the collection.

If you are a taxpayer, could I urge you to complete the Gift Aid declaration form on the back of the envelope. This will add 25p for every pound that you give at no extra cost to yourself.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 3rd May (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Rose Ena King (Anniv)

Sunday 4th – 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Sinnathamby Joseph Victor (Anniv)

11.30 Annapackiam Albert (Anniv)

Monday 5th – Easter feria

09.30 Mr. & Mrs. C. Ponnukone (Anniv)

Tuesday 6th – Easter feria

09.30 Herbert Hoffmann (Anniv)

Wednesday 7th – Easter feria

19.00 Adrian Taylor RIP

Thursday 8th – Easter feria

09.30 Mr. & Mrs. Augustine, Mr. & Mrs. Thambipillai, Benita (Int)

Friday 9th – Easter feria

09.30 Margaret & Karol (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, Keith Home, Andrew McLeod, Eileen Lee.

Pray Also For Rose Ena King, Sinnathamby Joseph Victor, Annapackiam Albert, Mr. & Mrs. C. Ponnukone, Herbert Hoffmann, Joan Hainsby, Elizabeth Simmonds, Dr. Nihal Ranasinghe, Sr Veronica Carr, Patrick Hedderman, Tom Ryan, Sheila Watts, Austin Ormson, Elizabeth Tumulty, Mary & Eddy Moriarty, Gerard Taylor and Mary Anne Thambiratnam whose anniversaries occur at this time.

First Holy Communion Please keep in your prayers the second group of children who are receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this weekend.

Sacrament of Confirmation We pray for, and congratulate, our 47 young parishioners who will be conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation today by Bishop John Arnold.

Fr Shaun's Silver Jubilee This year Fr Shaun will celebrate the twenty fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. There will be a Jubilee Mass on Thursday, 10th July at 7pm and this will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Would it be possible for parishioners to make something to eat for this celebration? Nearer the time we will put up a list for people to sign who would like to bring some food to share. In the meantime, please put July 10th in your diaries.

Parish Building Project All continues to go well with the project, the exterior brickwork is now ¾ complete. However, we are about 3 weeks behind schedule. The contractors have assured me that they will be able to make up this time when the next phase of the project begins and so we are still looking at a completion date of October 4th. Please keep the project in your prayers.

Sweet Music This weekend most people will hear our new organ for the first time. It was installed this week and we hope that it will give many years of service and it will enhance our liturgy. The organ was purchased with our share of the funds raised at the International Day. So please do support this year's International Day on Saturday, 21st June - the feast of St John Fisher.

Coffee Morning Please join us for a cream tea on the lawn outside the presbytery (weather permitting) next Sunday, 11th May after the 10am & 11.30am Mass. All proceeds will go towards the Parish project.

Fairtrade Food Stall Will be open in the porch next weekend. Come and browse the food and our new small selection of general greeting cards. Let us know (at the stall or email sjfraidcraft@gmail.com) if there is anything you would like us to stock in future.

Harrow Deanery Day "The Joy of the Gospel" – A Day of Reflection on Ministry led by Sr Judith Russi on Saturday, 7th June 2014 at 10am-4pm at The Niland Centre, Rosary Priory, Bushey. This day is for Ministers and Catechists. There are 17 places – first come, first serve. £10 including lunch. To secure your place and complete a booking form please contact Kay O'Connor on 8429 5682 or kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk. See poster in porch.

Widowers Group If you would like to socialise with other parishioners whether old/young, male/female in similar circumstances, please join me for our first meeting on Thursday, 22nd May at 8pm in the small hall. Please feel free to contact me on 07803 095807/mariashortland1966@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting you. *Maria*

Aylesford Pilgrimage Unfortunately this pilgrimage on 4th May has been cancelled for the first time due to lack of interest.

Union of Catholic Mothers Our meeting on 7th May will be a bring & buy sale with a Garden Theme. Please bring any seedlings or cuttings you can spare. I have plenty of clean flowerpots. *Angela*

"Come Dine" Are there any parishioners interested in a "Come Dine" concept where you cook a meal for 3-4 parishioners and each month thereafter you take it in turn to prepare a meal for your group? It is a good way to combine socialising, love of cooking and entertaining. It will be open to all ages/creeds/nationalities. The only two stipulations will be it is to **be fun** (no point scoring) and there is to be NO looking around the property. If you are interested, please contact Roshan on 07976 199806 or email cl_comedine@yahoo.co.uk (please note it is underscore).

St John Fisher Preschool Are allocating places for their Sept 2014 intake. If you would like to apply for a place or to discuss your child starting please call/email for an application form 07586 345706/sjf.preschool@gmail.com. You are welcome to call in at 10am-12pm to pick up an application form. Our sessions are Mon, Tues & Weds 9.15am-3.45pm, Thurs & Fri 9.15am-12.45pm. Your child may also attend from 12.45pm-3.45pm Mon, Tues & Weds or 9.15am-12.45pm. Term time only. Did you know the criterion for funded two year olds is extending and will enable more children to qualify in Sept 2014? We are registered to take funded 2 year olds but are only able to take a limited amount. Please contact us for further information.

Johnpromise Umeozuru Our parish has been asked to welcome Johnpromise Umeozuru amongst us. Originally from Nigeria, Johnpromise would like to discern whether or not he has a vocation to the priesthood. The vocations director for Westminster, Fr. Richard Nesbitt, has suggested Johnpromise roots himself here at St John Fisher and gives a hand in developing our ministry to young people. Johnpromise has a love for music and would like to get involved with the liturgical aspect of parish life. John will continue in his full time employed work for the next year. In the meantime, he is looking for a flat share or he would like to rent a room. If you can help with this, or you know of anyone who can, please contact him direct by email promisemagnus@yahoo.com.

Lucille Goulding RIP The family extend their thanks to everyone for their prayers, mass intentions and cards. Your support was greatly appreciated. Please keep Lucille in your prayers.