



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531

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)

11th May 2014 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

I like the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd but on reflection I wonder why I, or we, should like very much being compared to sheep. Sheep have the reputation of being one of the stupidest of animals in God's creation. St. Luke's parable is endearing but it is not the most comforting story when you realize that the 99 were left to fend for themselves because that one stupid sheep ran off and got lost.



And stupidity *is* the issue in today's Gospel reading as well. The Pharisees

(presumably) just couldn't get the simple figure of speech used by Jesus — "they did not understand what he was saying to them." Jesus is here comparing himself to the door or gate through which the sheep pass in and out to pasture. The image proved too complicated for his hearers. In what follows (vv. 11-21) Jesus will try again, this time comparing himself to the shepherd of the sheep. He has no better success; they conclude that he must be mad (v. 20) and they won't listen to him anymore.

The seemingly invincible stupidity of his hearers calls to mind the reputed dimwittedness of sheep. (Are we really always that one stupid beast who got itself lost?) That is what I feel a little uneasy about. It's great to have a good shepherd! But it is not so great to be a stupid sheep!

However, according to scientists at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, it turns out that sheep are not as stupid as I (we, the Bible) once believed. One science correspondent of a national daily reveals that 'they are far more intelligent than they have been given credit for.' Thanks be to God! There is hope yet for me! The same reports that "they (sheep) have relatively advanced learning capabilities, are adaptable, can map out their surroundings...and may even be able to plan ahead." Now, that gives one hope. My ignorance isn't invincible. I can learn, I can adapt, find my place in the world.

Christ remains our Good Shepherd. We hear and know his voice. I don't want us to stop praying the *Lord is my shepherd*. I don't want us to stop celebrating Good Shepherd Sunday. But I do want us to understand that we Christians are not supposed to remain stupid sheep. We are not supposed to be always on the verge of getting lost. Being human and not sheep and with the help of the Good Shepherd we learn, adapt, grow — and change.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 10th May (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 John O'Hanlon RIP

Sunday 11th – 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

08.30 Hannah Celine O'Brien (Anniv)

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Ghandy Mangani (Anniv)

Monday 12th – Easter feria

09.30 Michael Cranitch RIP

Tuesday 13th – Easter feria

09.30 Mary Fernandes RIP

Wednesday 14th – Easter feria

19.00 Phebe Martins RIP

Thursday 15th – Easter feria

09.30 Keith Home RIP

Friday 16th – Easter feria

09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam 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, Mary Kathleen Laight, Mary Fernandes.

Pray Also For Hannah Celine O'Brien, Ghandy Mangani, Nelly Ougan, Angela Cawley, Brian Tunnacliffe, Germain Tse Kwong Pin, Angela Castagna, Jim Morawski, Thomas Durkin, Cathleen Smith, William Irving, Carl Johns and James Moreland whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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

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.

Coffee Morning Please join us for a cream tea on the lawn outside the presbytery (weather permitting) or in the Parish hall today after the 10am & 11.30am Mass.

Fairtrade Food Stall In the porch after all Masses this weekend.

Bethany Group Next meeting on Thursday, 15th May at 7.30pm.

Welcome Ministry Rota Please collect your rota from your pigeon hole in the porch. We need more volunteers - if you are interested please contact Sue Moriarty at suemoriarty@sky.com.

Children's Liturgy Rota Please collect your rota from your pigeon hole in the porch.

Harrow Deanery Day Please collect a booking form from your pigeon hole in the porch and return it to Kay.

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

St. John Fisher Social Club Present a Charity Concert for the Cardiomyopathy Association sung by the Harrow Apollo Male Choir, St. John Fisher Choir and Guests on Saturday, 17th May

2014, Door 7pm in the St. John Fisher Parish Centre. Tickets £8 (£6 concession). Please contact Ashley on 8723 5307.

Parish Quiz The Social Club are holding a Summer Quiz on Saturday, 7th June at 8pm in the Parish Hall. Entrance is £3 per person. Do come along and support us, we'd love to be able to repeat the success of our last one. All proceeds to parish funds. For further info/tickets please email durcanjohn@aol.com.

Open Gardens Today a member of Churches Together is opening his garden at 53 Brook Drive Harrow (off Pinner View) from 2.30pm- 5pm for charity. Tea and cake will also be available.

International Day Once again our parish will take responsibility of a number of stalls at the International Day, which will be held at St John Fisher school in Melrose Road on Saturday, June 21st at 11am-3pm. Last year we used our share of the proceeds to buy our new organ and I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the music. This year we would like to use whatever money we make to install a new lighting system. So we would ask everyone to attend the International Day, to buy raffle tickets and to contribute to the International Kitchen, you will find sign-up sheets for this in the porch. Please do get involved - this is our main fundraiser in the year and it brings together old friends and new.

St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School Job Vacancies An EYFS Leader and Class Teachers for KS1 & KS2, full time permanent posts, are required for September 2014. Closing date: Noon Thursday, 22nd May 2014. For more info please see notice board in the porch.

St. John Fisher Preschool Are allocating places for their Sept 2014 intake. If you would like to apply for a place please call in between 10am-12pm or email for an application form 07586 345706/sjf.preschool@gmail.com. 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.

Priest Training Fund Please return your envelopes today. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.

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