



# 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)

## 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014 ~ Fifth 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

The Temple in Jerusalem was built with stone, splendidly decorated; but the house to which we are called is what St Peter today calls a “spiritual house” built from “living stones”. Now obviously the talk of heaven as a house and ourselves as stones is by way of analogy. But permit me a little thought experiment. I’m sure we have all seen “human pyramids” or “human towers” performed by gymnasts. Some of us may even have taken part in such structures... or tried to. What if we took these human pyramids to the next level, and had a whole church or cathedral built literally from a lattice of Christian gymnasts standing on each other’s shoulders? Admittedly, before the structure got very big it would be too much for the “living stones” at the bottom to support. But have faith, and suspend disbelief (not to mention the laws of physics) for a moment. The human lattice church would certainly be a very impressive structure. And indeed the Church is an impressive body, there is no doubt about that: she has preached the good news incessantly for millennia and brought Christ’s love to billions.



The human lattice church would, however, be a rather unstable structure: anyone who has ever tried to be part of a human pyramid can confirm this! And the fragility of our faith and of our Church is apparent to us. We can’t hold this institution together on our own – and nor are we meant to. She was Christ’s Church before she was “our” Church, and it is Christ who is the original living stone giving firmness to his Church. We stumble, but he holds firm, and so the living lattice holds firm with him.

The human lattice church is one which has room. The lattice has holes where new living stones can be inserted and potential for whole new layers – and the Church is always inviting new members to be part of her, and new expressions of Christian life are always growing up in the Church. We don’t merely dwell in a room in the Church, but we become part of her dynamic fabric and structure. In our baptism and confirmation we are consecrated and anointed as individuals, but also to be part of the spiritual temple dedicated to Christ.

In this structure the gymnasts all depend on each other – it is the lattice which gives strength. So too in the Church we need to recognise our interdependence. We must provide for and support those in need, recognising that while we have different functions we are equal in dignity and equally requiring physical and spiritual nourishment.

It is a fanciful image, this human lattice church. But the real Church is more impressive, more dependent on Christ, more accepting of new members and movements, more a communion of Christians, more loving among ourselves and towards the world. Or if, through human frailty, she isn’t, we must, with Christ’s help, constantly strive that she become so.

*To Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Eileen Steinitz RIP

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

08.30 Intention of Donor

10.00 Augustine Texeira (Anniv)

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 Mr. & Mrs. Augustine, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley et al

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 Mr. Anton Emmanuel (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Easter feria

19.00 Royden & Marie Ince RIP

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 John Paul Syangbo RIP

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 Aleksandra Nekut 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**, Gertrude Höller, Hilda Rogers, Kathleen Falconer.

**Pray Also For** Augustine Texeira, Anton Emmanuel, Eugene Murray, Anne Griffin, Peter Digby, Arulamma Matthias, Aubrey Schokman, Ellen Broadrick, Raneesaverimuttu, Mark Kevin Sundararajan, Robert Dorr, Theresa Hughes, Joe O’Gorman, Joe McGrath, Aldo Minoli, Bridie White, Frank Gallagher and Sadie Horan whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Welcome Ministry Rota** We need more volunteers - if you are interested please contact Sue Moriarty at [suemoriarty@sky.com](mailto:suemoriarty@sky.com).

**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, 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 8pm in the small hall. Please contact me on 07803 095807/[mariashortland1966@gmail.com](mailto:mariashortland1966@gmail.com). I look forward to meeting you. *Maria*

**Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)** Our next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm when we will have a Beetle Drive.

**Parish Quiz** The Social Club are holding a Summer Quiz on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:durcanjohn@aol.com).

**Coffee Morning** With thanks to all who have supported our regular coffee mornings. Last Sunday’s gathering was our last until we welcome you back in September.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Could you also please help with the following donations: brick-a-brac, teddies, toys (in good condition), books, posh bags, bottles (unopened) for the tombola and Jolly Jars – these are jars (any type, jam, sauce, etc) filled with all sorts of treats that you think children would like, i.e. sweets/chocolates (wrapped or in packets), balloons, bouncy balls, hair clips, stickers, crayons, lollies and anything fun. You can drop all the above items off in the Church porch at the weekend or the sacristy during the week. Do you work in a company that operates a £4£ giving scheme? If you do and your company would like to support the school and parish, which are both registered charities, then please contact Fr Shaun at [shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk) / 020 8429 5684.

**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](mailto: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.

**“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](mailto:cl_comedine@yahoo.co.uk) (please note it is underscore).

**Priest Training Fund** You can still return your envelopes. 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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