



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)

1st June 2014 ~ The Ascension 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

The Feast of the Ascension is a cause for celebration. It can be - if we allow the Holy Spirit to show us what it really means. Is this Feast a commemoration of an event which occurred 2000 years ago? Or, could it help unlock the meaning of our lives right now? Does it point to the plan of God for the entire created order?

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus helps to explain the Christian vocation. It points to the ongoing plan of redemption for each of us. It gives us a glimpse of the loving plan of God for the whole of creation. This Feast also points us toward a deeper understanding of the Feast of Pentecost which we will soon celebrate. The very Breath of God, His Holy Spirit, has been breathed into the Body of Christ, the Church - and into each one of us as members of that Body. That Spirit makes it possible for us to live differently - beginning right now. It is at work within us, transforming us more and more into His Image and Likeness, as we cooperate with the gift of grace.

We have ascended with Jesus Christ - and are called to live on this earth the very realities of heaven. This is meant to begin in the here and now, to be completed in the fullness of time. The redemptive plan of God in Jesus Christ will not be complete until the same Jesus who ascended returns and hands the re-created cosmos back to the Father. That is what the Apostle Paul calls "the plan", or the "mystery" now revealed in Jesus Christ. (Col. 1)

The Feast of the Ascension reveals the meaning of our lives and points to the plan of God for the entire created order. The Ascension is not just an intermission but a call to understand the mission of the Church - and our call to participate in it. Jesus Christ has not left us. He is continuing His loving, redemptive plan through His Body, the Church, of which we are members. The Head and the Body cannot be separated. The great western Bishop Augustine proclaimed these words in a homily he preached on the Feast of the Ascension:

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Augustine, reflecting the clear teaching of the early Church Fathers, reminds us that the Head and the Body united are the "One Christ." In other words, we ascended with the Lord! He is the Head and we are members of His Body. We cannot be separated. So, this is our Feast! We live in Christ by living in His Body, the Church, of which we are members. We are invited to live in the heart of the Church for the sake of the world. Therefore, the Ascension does not mark the end of Jesus' relationship with His Church but the beginning of a new way of His relating to the world - in and through His Church.



Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 31st May (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Eileen Steinitz RIP

Sunday 1st June – **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Mick McBreen (Anniv)

11.30 In Thanksgiving - Arulanantham Family

Monday 2nd – Easter feria

09.30 Mary Fernandes RIP (Month's Mind)

Tuesday 3rd – St Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs

09.30 Etna McHale (Sick)

Wednesday 4th – Easter feria

19.00 Mrs. A. Swords (Int)

Thursday 5th – St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

09.30 Intention of Donor

Friday 6th – Easter feria

09.30 Mrs. Fernandez (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,

Pray Also For Mick McBreen, Magda Gordon, Nora McManamon, Grace Schifano, Aoife Conroy, Jim O’Gorman, Marian Tallon, Anne Tyhurst, Bridie Aherne and Mrs. Pauline Rajakarier whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Jessica Thurnburn and Ford Watts-Morrison who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

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

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 5th June 2014 at 8pm in the Social Club.

Parish Women’s Group - Thursday, 12th June 2014 Please join us for a walk around Ruislip Lido followed by a drink or two at the reservoir pub. Meeting place - St. John Fisher Car Park at 7.30pm. We intend to travel by car and then walk once at the Lido. Offers to take passengers in your car will be most welcome. (Should it rain, we shall simply have a drink and chat in the pub.) All women in the parish and their friends are most welcome. Please let Barbara Towell know if you intend to come so that we have sufficient cars to take everyone. Call 8866 6665 or email barbaratowell@sky.com.

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.

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 / 020 8429 5684.

Explore is a charity bringing volunteer married couples into schools and parishes to allow 14–17 year olds to explore what marriage is all about, to learn in a dynamic way the importance of lasting relationships and to inspire them to aspire to lifelong marriage. The emotional and financial cost of family breakdown is incalculable but Explore works to change this. Volunteer couples find their own marriages enriched through this urgent apostolate. Please consider volunteering (only twice or three times a year). Visit www.theexploreexperience.co.uk, talk it over with your spouse & for further info contact Edmund Adamus at the Office for Marriage & Family Life on edmundadamus@rcdow.org.uk or 020 7798 9363.

Summer Accommodation in London Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in central London in July and August. Beautiful gardens and chapel. Rooms from £50 per night (including breakfast). Visit www.allenhall.org.uk; email allenhall@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7349 5600 (option 0).

St Luke’s Hospice Summer Proms At Harrow School in June and July. Please see poster and booking forms in porch or visit www.stlukes-hospice.org/summerproms.

Association of Separated and Divorced Catholics (ASDC)

The next meeting of the Harrow ASDC Group will be on Monday 2 June at 8 pm in St Bernard’s Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics, whatever their situation, are welcome. For further information please contact Jill 0208 204 3714 or Eileen 0208 756 1284.

Welcome To Johnpromise Umeozuru, who will be spending a year with us as he discerns a possible vocation to the priesthood. John will be here from this weekend and will be helping out with serving, RCIA, youth and music ministry.

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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