



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)

14th September 2014 ~ The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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 14th September each year we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast commemorates the discovery of the Cross in Jerusalem by St Helena in the 4th century, and the recovery of the Cross by the Emperor Heraclius in the year 629AD, after it had been carried away by the Persians. The Cross is central to Christian faith. You will never find a Catholic Church without a cross, occasionally a plain cross, but most often a crucifix with the figure of the crucified Christ hanging on it. So, what does the Cross mean for us? It recalls the betrayal, humiliation and suffering of Jesus the innocent victim. But it also speaks of sacrifice and self-giving love offered by the Son of God, so that through a stunning act of obedience the relationship between God and man might be restored and the sin of Adam overcome.



In the single event of the crucifixion we can see at the same time both the depths of human sin and degradation, and the heights of God's forgiveness, love and power. He came as one of us, to abide with us, and make present among us his love and forgiveness. He came not just restore to us the life that had been offered at the beginning, but to lead us even higher: to be with him, the Son, at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus's human life ended on the cross. So the cross stands for both death and life. It displays the fact of Jesus's death at our hands, because of our wickedness. It also displays God's forgiving love, which can never be put off by our rebellion. As the hymn says:

*"O generous love! That he who smote in man for man the foe,
the double agony in man for man should undergo."*

The crucifying of Jesus was a cruel and sinful execution of a totally innocent man. And what we do now to our fellow human beings is just the same as they did then to Jesus. 'In as much as you did this to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me' (Matthew 25: 31 - 46). At the same time what happened on the cross is unique because it was the death of God-made-man for our salvation. It is through that death, and the salvation it gained for us, that Jesus invites us to reflect on the majesty of God and profound love that God has for us. The question for each of us now is, how do I respond to such love?

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 13th September (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Kevin McGuire RIP

Sunday 14th – THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

08.30 Gerry Furnell RIP

10.00 Maura & Monty Moriarty (Anniv)

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 15th – Our Lady of Sorrows

09.30 Collin Titus Appuhami (2nd Ann) & Samaraweera Subasinghe (11th Ann)

Tuesday 16th – Sts Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

09.30 Intention of Donor

Wednesday 17th – Feria, Twenty-Fourth Week of Year 2

19.00 Marie Chandra (Anniv)

Thursday 18th – Feria

09.30 Maria Keiko Matsumura (Anniv)

Friday 19th – Feria

09.30 Shammy Canagasuriam (2nd Ann) & Felician Stanislaus (8th Ann)
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, Edmund Mitchell, Eugene McSharry.

Pray Also For Maura & Monty Moriarty, Collin Titus Appuhami, Samaraweera Subasinghe, Marie Chandra, Maria Keiko Matsumura, Shammy Canagasuriam, Felician Stanislaus, Alma Houghton, Kitty Young, Philomena Dias, Georgina Wilson, Molly McCann, Jean Casey, Francis Kerr, Ann Maybury, Mavis Pereira, Elmo Joseph, Reginald Dingley, Florida Lawani, Margaret Garvey, Tony Garvey and Clara Mars-Harris whose anniversaries occur at this time.

School Admission Fr. Shaun will sign school forms for **SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFERS** on Saturday, 20th September and 11th October 2014 (**please note new Oct date**) at 10.30am-12.30pm in the Parish Hall (*forms have to be with the schools by 24th October at the latest*). This is by APPOINTMENT ONLY so please contact Claudia McHugh on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 8429 5681 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm). When making your appointment please advise if you are applying for more than one school and a contact telephone number.

Traidcraft Food Stall We are back from the Summer break and will be open in the porch after all Masses next weekend.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Wednesday, 17th September after Mass Marguerite Kuhn will speak about the Week of Accompanied Prayer which takes place during the first week of November, and will answer any questions. Marguerite is a catholic and trained prayer accompanier. Any parishioners interested in this talk on accompanied prayer are welcome to attend.

Bethany Group Next meeting on Thursday, 18th September at 7.30pm.

Week of Accompanied Prayer Churches Together in North Harrow are inviting you to take part in a week of accompanied prayer this November. This will be an opportunity to explore ways of praying and to enrich our relationship with God wherever we are at. All that is required is a commitment from each participant to spend half an hour a day to pray /reflect on a suggested text. Then to meet with a prayer companion each day for up to half an hour, in total confidence, to explore the journey together. **Dates for Diary:** Saturday 27th September 3-5pm Taster Session at N. Harrow Methodist Church; Sunday 2nd November 3-

4.30pm Opening Session at N. Harrow Methodist Church and Sunday 8th November 11am-12.30pm Closing Session at Elmfield Church a time to celebrate followed by a bring and share lunch.

St John Fisher RC Preschool Are situated in the parish hall and take children from 2 years & 6 months (under certain circumstances we may be able to take younger children). We are open from 9.15am–3.45pm on a Mon, Tues & Wed and 9.15am-12.45am on a Thurs & Fri morning. We currently have a limited amount of places available over a variety of sessions. We can offer funding to: All 4 year olds, 3 year olds (the term following their third birthday) and are registered with Harrow LEA to offer funding to 2 year olds (providing you are eligible). We are also happy to accept childcare vouchers. Should you be interested in a place for your child, would like to register them or require further info please call 07586 345706 or email sjf.preschool@gmail.com.

Racial Justice Sunday This weekend, the Church in England and Wales will be celebrating Racial Justice Sunday. It is a day on which all Christians are called to earnestly pray for an end to racism and racial inequality. The Bishop's Conference Office for Migration works in a unique partnership with statutory authorities in combatting human trafficking and modern slavery of the most vulnerable and marginalised people. If you would like more information, please visit www.cbcew.org.uk/human-trafficking.

Adult Faith formation The diocese are running many courses for adults on preparing your child for sacramental preparation, formations for Readers and Extraordinary ministers, Parish Council members and exploring Advent. See www.rcdow.org.uk/faith/welcome or speak with Kay if you would like more information.

Open Evening at The Sacred Heart Language College (Wealdstone) for full details of admission arrangements for September 2015 On Wednesday, 17th September 2014, 4–6pm.

Gunnersbury Catholic School Open Days On Wednesday 24th September (2-3.30pm & 6-8pm), Wednesday 1st October (2-3.30pm) and Wednesday 8th October (9.30-10.30am Tour only - by appointment). Please phone the school office for more info on 020 8568 7281 or visit www.gunnersbury.com.

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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