



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)

26th October 2014 ~ Thirtieth Sunday of the Year A

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

When the Pharisees ask Jesus "Master which is the greatest commandment of the law?", they are really interested in hearing what Jesus has to say, they are interested in discovering and following the truth. They have just heard how Jesus answered the Sadducees, how he defended the Jewish and Pharisaic faith in the resurrection. The Pharisees see in Jesus an ally, this time they ask him which of the laws is most important.

There are 613 laws that they follow: 248 positive ones corresponding to the number of bones in the human body (according to ancient medicine) and 365 negative corresponding to 365 days in the year. Which one of these is the greatest, the most important, they ask.

They ask Jesus to single out one. He says he gives them two but in fact we hear three commandments. The first one is not surprising at all. The command to love the Lord with all heart, soul and mind is well established in the Jewish tradition.

It is the second and the third one which would have been surprising to Jesus' listeners. You shall love your neighbour as yourself is in fact not one but two commandments. You need to love yourself in the first place in order to love your neighbour with the same love.

And how do we do that? The traditional way is not limited but ought to include at least prayer, fasting and almsgiving, which Christ teaches in other places in the scriptures.

Prayer builds and restores our love for God. If we attempted to use God for our own purposes, even if they are noble, we end up treating God as an object, an idol. Prayer helps us to see that God is someone we are called to love. So prayer restores our relationship with God; with the most loving of friends.

Fasting restores our love for ourselves. It helps in curbing our selfishness and it strengthens our will. So it enables us to live a virtuous and free life, a free life where it is we who are in control of our desires and not the desires which enslave us and take away our freedom.

Almsgiving restores our love for our neighbours. In giving alms we are constantly expanding our hearts to love not just members of our family, not just our friends, but complete strangers.

For this reason, before we can see God face to face, we need to educate our desires, our love and longing for him. And in this way love becomes both means and the goal of Christian life and its striving for true perfection, which can only be given to us by God who is love.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 25th October (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Bernard Lynch (1st Anniv)

Sunday 26th – 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Special Intention

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 In Thanksgiving – Russell & Edna Arulanantham Wedding Anniv.

Monday 27th – Feria, Thirtieth Week of Year 2

09.30 Adrian Taylor RIP, Jack Routleff RIP

Tuesday 28th – STS SIMON and JUDE, Apostles

09.30 Intention of Donor

Wednesday 29th – Blessed Martyrs of Douai College

19.00 Vincent Bourke (Anniv)

Thursday 30th – Feria

09.30 Chris O'Hara RIP

Friday 31st – Feria

09.30 Noel McHugh

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, Chris O'Hara, Flavia Soares, Eddie Fitzgerald.

Pray Also Bernard Lynch, Vincent Bourke, Philomena Seymour, Kathleen Kane, Frederick Goddard, Kathleen Foran, Esmé Phaure, Michael Rooney, Timothy Kelleher and Arthur Moore whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Consecration of the Church Cardinal Vincent will come to our parish to consecrate the church and altar on Friday, 14th November at 7pm. We would like to host a reception afterwards and would ask parishioners to provide finger food for a buffet in the hall following the liturgy. Teresa Arrigo has kindly offered to co-ordinate the catering, so please contact her at t.arrigo@virgin.net, 020 8427 3063 and let her know if you can help out on the day or what you will bring along. Wine and soft drinks will be provided.

Parish 100 Club As you can see the major structural work to the church has now been completed and we hope that you like it. Over the next seven years, we will need to pay the diocese back the loan that it has given to our parish to make this work possible. One fund raising initiative is for parishioners to join the Parish 100 Club. We would ask parishioners to buy a monthly ticket which costs £5; if 100 people join and pay £5 a month, the amount raised each month is £500... and £250 is given away in prizes as follows: £100 £75 £50 £25. This leaves £250 which goes to the parish. If 200 people join, the prizes go up to £200, £150, £100 and £50. So the more people that join, the greater the monthly prize money will be. It would be fantastic if we could have a parish 200 club so we could raise £6000 a year which would be enormously helpful. **A Registration form is available from the porch or our website.** Thank you for your support.

Fairtrade food & CAFOD Christmas cards Cards will be on sale in the porch after 6pm and 8.30am Mass. The stall will be in the Parish hall after 10am and 11.30am Mass selling food & cards.

Coffee Morning Please join us today in the Parish Hall after 10am and 11.30am Mass. There will be raffle tickets on sale – all proceeds will go towards the Parish project.

Annual Parish Meeting To be held on Monday, 24th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Items for the Agenda should be notified, in writing, to the Chairman c/o the Parish House, no later than 14 days prior to the meeting.

School Admission Fr. Shaun will sign school forms for PRIMARY & 6TH FORM COLLEGE on Saturday, 15th November at 10.30am-12.30pm in the Parish Hall. For an appointment please contact Claudia McHugh on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 8429 5681 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm). **Please note that candidates who apply for 6th FORM should attend – not parents.**

Mass for the Bereaved Each year in November we celebrate a Mass for those who have been bereaved in recent years. This will be held at 7pm on Monday, 3rd November, the Feast of All Souls. Everyone is welcome to attend. Because of the re-ordering of our church since January, no funerals have taken place and letters of invitation to the Mass have only been sent out to those families where we have been given details of funerals taking place in other parishes. Therefore, we especially extend an invitation to those whose loved ones have died within the last year. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the new Sacristy Room.

Small Faith Sharing Groups Our small group will be starting after Mass on Thursday morning 30th October at 69 Church Drive (Barbara Mather), and that led by Neville Bayross will start at his house, 5 South Way, after Mass on Tuesday 28th October. There is a notice in the porch with details.

'The Pylon', Christmas Edition Reminder. **Deadline** for articles and items is **November 2nd**. Send to barbaratowell@sky.com asap. Many thanks.

Widower's Group If you would like to join please feel free to come on Thursday, 30th October at 8pm to the small hall at St John Fisher Church. I look forward to meeting you. *Maria*

Union of Catholic Mothers – 5th November Important meeting to decide whether the UCM should continue. Light supper will be provided (cost to be divided by members). Please bring your own drinks. Members please attend.

Churches Together in North Harrow Are working together to deliver Christmas cards to all houses in the neighbourhood. If you can help call Eddie 82484997/Nicola 88682536 or better e-mail mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk. Distribution would be easier if we could make more use of the internet.

Our Lady of Sorrows Support Group Annual Mass We are a support group for bereaved parents who meet up on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month. Please come along and drop in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. The next date is Wednesday November 12th at 7.30pm-9pm which will be preceded by our annual mass to be celebrated by Father Guy at 7.30pm. For more info contact Elpida 07979 840663 or Jo 07951 647626.

Blessing of the Graves Mass will be celebrated in the Cemetery Chapel at 11am at Pinner New Cemetery on Monday, 17th November. This will be followed by the blessing of the graves.

The Justice & Peace Annual Study Day (free) At St John Vianney Parish Centre, West Green Rd, N15 3QH on Saturday, 8th November at 10am-4pm. The Welfare Myth of 'Them and Us' – How we ALL use welfare as our lives change! For more info please see poster on notice board.

St Joseph's Harrow Weald 2014-16 Concert Series For dates please see poster on notice board in the porch.

Pilgrims Progress The November edition is in the Church porch.

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