



# 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)

## 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015 ~ The Baptism 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

St. Mark structures his Gospel around three great moments of revelation. At the beginning, Jesus is baptised, and the Father's voice declares, "You are my Son, the Beloved." Half-way through, he is transfigured, and the voice tells the disciples, "This is my Son, the Beloved." At the end, Jesus dies on the Cross, and the centurion can declare, "Truly this man was God's Son." I suspect Mark



intends us to apply this to ourselves. When we are baptised, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, we are given a share in Jesus' own ministry. On our pilgrimage we may be given moments of "transfiguration" – sacramental celebrations, answers to prayer, times when faith is strengthened, and so on. But, like the disciples who could not keep Jesus on the mountain of the Transfiguration, we must learn to follow him on the Way of the Cross, since it is when we share Jesus' self-giving love that we most truly appear to the world as God's children.

We may flesh this out, following the tradition that it was by being baptised that Jesus made our Baptism possible, and taking a lead from the custom of depicting Jesus' Baptism in baptisteries. When we accepted the invitation to come to the waters, we went into them with Jesus, and the Father's voice said to each of us, "You are my child, my beloved." We were begotten from God the Father as members of his eternal Son, and commissioned – as the new rite of Baptism emphasises – to love our Father and to love all the others he begets. We were given a share in Jesus' victory over the world, that is, the Holy Spirit empowered us to resist "the world, the flesh and the devil" whenever they would have us not love.

St. John reminds us that Jesus did not come with water only, but with water and blood; and the Spirit, who is truth – truth in the sense of loyalty – is the witness. For while the Holy Trinity was revealed on the public stage for the first time at Jesus' Baptism, the great moment of revelation was when Jesus died and "handed over the Spirit", symbolised by the Blood-and-water, living water. That is when Jesus revealed the Father's mercy and loyalty, and the shedding of his Blood was the everlasting Covenant, the ultimate pledge of God's loyalty to his People, his Bride. All the Sacraments draw their power chiefly from this Sacrifice, which obtained the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is God's Love and Loyalty in Person. Just look at the great cross which hangs in our church - this graphically depicts the blood and water flowing from the side of Christ and thus our Spirit filled sacramental life which is rooted in him.

*Fr Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January (First Mass of Sunday)  
18.00 Nora Sweeney (Anniv)  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
08.30 Peter Gould RIP  
10.00 People of the Parish  
11.30 Susan Gibbs (Anniv)  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Feria, First Week of Year 1  
09.30 Bill Kennedy (Anniv)  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
09.30 Josef Schuster RIP  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
19.00 PJ Maloney's Int.  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
09.30 Intention of Donor  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
09.30 Maureen Burke 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.**

*(SVP If you or your sick relative could benefit from a visit from the St Vincent de Paul Society, please inform the presbytery.)*

**Recently Deceased**, Mani Britto, Andrew Wallis, Agnes McCourt.

**Pray Also For**, Nora Sweeney, Susan Gibbs, Bill Kennedy, John & Mary Grogan, Frances Rowlands, June Haskell, James Fogarty, Gladys Bennett, Maria Porrello, Anna Chenley, James Murray, Marie Bayross, Elsie Yim, Nora Duffy, Myra Mahendra, John Murphy, Millicent Mabin, Ratnadurai Thayaparan, Allen Morgan, John Slavin, George Rolt, Marguerite Dalgliesh, Jane Hubert, Jesuthasan Daniel, Clement Onwuachu, Ian Scott, Loretta Souza, Agnes O'Sullivan, Graham Cooke, Freda Glynn, John McGovern, Ron Press, Ellen Deely and Nora Mackie whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Confirmation Candidates** All outstanding paperwork needs to be returned to Kay by Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January in preparation for your meeting on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 5.30pm till 7pm.

**Could you volunteer to read at Mass?** If you can help, especially at the 11.30am Mass on Sunday, please contact Kay at [kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk). This is a really valuable ministry, please give it some serious thought and don't be shy about coming forward.

**Altar Servers** Next week 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Jan Team B will serve.

**Friday Coffee Morning** On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Fridays of the month, there is a chance for parishioners to meet after Mass over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit in the Fisher Room. Everyone is welcome.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> January** CTNH Services will be held each day at Noon at the following Churches: **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> St John Fisher**; Tuesday - North Harrow Methodist Church; Wednesday – St. Alban's Church; Thursday - St George's Church & Sinai Mar Thoma Church; Friday - Elmfield Church and Saturday - tbc. Your support for St John Fisher's Ecumenical service will be most welcome. Light refreshments will be available after each service.

**St John Fisher Social Club** Membership subscriptions are now due and can be renewed during club opening hours or after Mass in the porch on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January. Please note our AGM is on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

**Bethany Group** Next meeting on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm.

**Mary's Meals "Rags to Riches" Collection** Mary's Meals will be coming to our church in a couple of weeks time to take away your unwanted textiles, i.e. clothes, bags, blankets, towels, curtains and shoes. Over the next few weeks please collect all unwanted clothes, etc and put them in sacks. Please bring them with you when you come to Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January. Please do not bring before then. Please see poster in the porch.

**St John Fisher Catholic Diaries 2015** Now available in the Church porch. Cost £1. Please put money in 'Papers' box.

**Parish 100 Club** The major structural work to the church has 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 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.

**Adult Faith Formation Events This is My Body - for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (and anyone else) - **Facilitator:** Sr Anne Walsh OP and Sr Karen Marguerite d'Artois OP on Thu 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7pm – 8.30pm. **The Privilege of Proclaiming the Word - for parish readers** (and anyone else) - **Facilitator:** Sr Anne Walsh OP and Sr Karen Marguerite d'Artois OP on Thu 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7pm – 8.30pm. Booking is required. Both events take place at Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, SW1P 1QN. Please register at [www.rcdow.org.uk/events/](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/events/) or [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or call at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation is £3. Tea/coffee will be provided.

**Many thanks** for all the kind good wishes when I headed down here to Fareham - the coffee maker has been put to very good use! If you are ever coming down near Portsmouth or just fancy a visit to the south coast, do get in touch. My contact details are: Tel 01329 220577, email [annanderson589@btinternet.com](mailto:annanderson589@btinternet.com), address 3 Shearwater Avenue, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 8YE (I apologise to those that I gave my postcode as 8EY - that's wrong!!). All good wishes for 2015 and beyond. *Ann Anderson*

**Accommodation Required** 26 year old male looking for a small room to rent in the Harrow/Pinner area, close to St. John Fisher. Cooking facilities not necessary. Please contact Russell or Edna on 07983 352729 or 07776 174590.

**Parking** We have been contacted by a resident of Imperial Close who has asked that we draw the attention of parishioners who may be parking on the grass verge at the entrance to the church. This inconveniences our neighbours and so we would ask that you do not park there. Please use our car park, Imperial Drive and the surrounding streets for parking. It is really important that we maintain a good relationship with the residents of Imperial Close. To this end, we are asking Harrow Council to investigate improper parking and they may wish to serve Penalty Notices on people who park on what is a pedestrian walkway.