



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)

18th January 2015 ~ Second Sunday of the Year B

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

As a young boy, the prophet Samuel hears God calling in such a familiar human way that he assumes it is the voice of Eli. Eli realizes that it must be God speaking directly to the boy. His advice is to be attentive to God's word and we are told that Samuel's attention to the voice of God is rewarded with His abiding presence – 'the Lord was with him'.

God usually speaks to us through more than one human agent. When Jesus speaks to the disciples it is the Son of God speaking. But they come to him at the prompting of John the Baptist. There is no hard evidence that Jesus was part



of John's group of devotees. That makes it all the more striking that he is able to recognize Jesus 'as the lamb of God'. Those words are inspired and prophetic. John the Baptist can't possibly have guessed at the resonance these words would have in the light of the crucifixion. He is a reminder that we need the witness of holy men and women.

The man of God is able to draw others to God. He doesn't try to persuade the disciples with arguments drawn from the scriptures. He just informs them but his words are so effective that the disciples immediately turn their attention to Christ.

That meeting with Christ is itself worthy of reflection. Jesus asks the disciples 'what do you want?' At this point all the disciples want is to get to know Jesus and so they give this almost childish reply, 'we want to know where you are staying'. They would certainly have been disappointed if Jesus had just supplied them with his address! The word translated as staying (*meneis*) is a key word in St John's theology. John uses this verb to describe God dwelling within us and there are already hints of that meaning in this passage. This visit to Jesus' home is just the beginning. Later on Jesus will speak of the need to dwell in him so that He can dwell in His disciples. Discipleship will mean more than listening to his teaching or following him around, it will mean discovering their own mission to be temples of the Holy Spirit, which we are also meant to be as St Paul reminds us today.

The question 'what do you seek?' is not an easy one to answer. But it is a good place from which to start. All people seek something – knowledge, happiness, security, love; but as St Augustine tells us, we are made to be with God and so our hearts are restless until we rest in Him. Learning what we need and so what we truly want is a gradual process and it is connected to discovering what we are, who we truly are. Simon Peter is a headstrong man who will discover just how weak he is when Jesus is arrested. But Jesus can see the rock of faith that he is destined to be. That is his true identity. God knows us better than we know ourselves and the more we search for God the more we discover just who we truly are.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 17th January (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 People of the Parish
Sunday 18th – 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
08.30 Annette & Danny Fadian (Anniv)
10.00 Michael McMahon RIP
11.30 Daniel & Agnes O'Sullivan (Anniv)
Monday 19th – Feria, Second Week of Year 1
09.30 Mani Britto RIP
Tuesday 20th – Feria
09.30 Eileen Power (Anniv), Luke & Angela Filan (Anniv)
Wednesday 21st – St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
19.00 Elsa Dias (Anniv)
Thursday 22nd – Feria
09.30 Andrew Wallis RIP
Friday 23rd – Feria
09.30 Intention of Donor

11.00 Funeral of Tim O'Sullivan 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, Tom Clarke, Tim O'Sullivan, Joan O'Keefe.

Pray Also For, Annette & Danny Fadian, Daniel & Agnes O'Sullivan, Eileen Power, Luke & Angela Filan, Elsa Dias, Larry Gibbons, Julia Moran, Flora Buhagiar, William Quinn, John Twomey, Bridget Walsh, William Enwright, Kitty O'Connor, Annette Motley, Ariti Papson, Ida Buhagiar, Edris Morris, Herbert Green, James Horkan, Denise Mitchell and Henry Kobus whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Tim O'Sullivan who has died. Requiem Mass on Friday, 23rd January at 11am at St John Fisher. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

SJF Young Adults Group This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together on every first Sunday of the month to get to know one another, get more involved in the life of the parish and the diocese, discuss and grow in their faith, as well as socialise. Everyone is most welcome. **Next meeting is Sunday 1st Feb after the 11.30am mass in the Fisher Room.** For more information please contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com or Sherna Bhadresa at sherna_bhadresa@msn.com / [07899938438](tel:07899938438). Our Facebook page is: 'SJF Young Adults'.

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

Week of Prayer of Christian Unity on 18th - 25th January This Sunday begins the week of prayer for Christian unity. Our local churches arrange this together with a service at 12 Noon every day, starting here at St. John Fisher tomorrow and followed by sandwiches & tea coffee, etc. Everyone is invited to these daily services and lunch. We hope that many will come and pray and stay together for food and a chat. The day for each short service and lunch is :- **Monday, 19th St John Fisher**; Tuesday, 20th North Harrow Methodist Church; Wednesday, 21st St. Alban's Church; Thursday, 22nd St George's Church & Sinai Mar Thoma Church and Friday 23rd Elmfield Church.

Altar Servers Next week 24th/25th Jan Team A will serve.

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

Mary's Meals "Rags to Riches" Collection Next weekend Mary's Meals will be coming to our church to take away your unwanted textiles, i.e. clothes, bags, blankets, towels, curtains and shoes. Please put all clothing, etc in sacks and bring them with you when you come to Mass. Please do not bring before then.

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.

Churches Together in North Harrow In the weeks preceding the general election in May our churches will arrange a husting with our local M.Ps to take place in one of our halls. We are looking for a person to chair the meeting. Preselected questions will be provided. See below for contacts for more information. On another more regular basis, Churches Together in North Harrow are looking for a new editor for our monthly Pilgrims Progress newsletter (always available from the rack in the porch). The items for inclusion are sent to the editor from the churches. If you are interested in either of these, please contact Marian Smith, Sec to CTNH at marian@stjulians.plus.com or Angela Daley at daley47@yahoo.co.uk.

Belmont Theatre Group – "Remembrance" by Graham Reid Since we closed Imperial Players I have been part of Belmont Theatre Group and we are putting on the challenging play Remembrance - an absorbing, powerful and touching drama played against the violence in Northern Ireland during the troubles. Remembrance charts the love that develops between a Protestant father and a Catholic mother who meet in the cemetery where their sons are buried, both victims of the violence. Family members burden the courtship with personal bigotry, hatred and finally reconciliation. I would also like to mention that it has what I would consider to be strong explicit language. 25th Feb - Sat 28th Feb, **Box Office** 07917 324179, Tickets £12.50, Concessions £11 **Venue:** Pump House Watford. For more info see www.pumphouse.info/ Helen Sherwood

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony at Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2015 at 3pm The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2015. If you qualify, please contact Claudia on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 8429 5681 by **Friday, 27th February 2015** with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).