



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 March 2015 ~ Second Sunday of Lent 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

Have you noticed how many events in the Bible happen on mountains? Mount Moriah; Sinai or Horeb; Galilee; the Temple Mount in Jerusalem... Golgotha. There are events of passion – the sacrifice of Isaac and the crucifixion; events of revelation – the giving of the Law, the Ten Commandments and the Transfiguration, and events of teaching – the statutes of the covenant and the Sermon on the Mount, and all are an encounter with God. Elijah the prophet too, who reveals the face of God to the people, encounters a presence of God on Mt Horeb as he is fleeing Israel. The idea is that mountains show forth the proximity of God and his holiness. At the giving of the Law at Sinai the people were forbidden to touch the mountain 'lest they die' it was so holy.



So Jesus takes Peter and James and John up the mountain. They are returning from Caesarea Philippi, a beautiful, green country and moving south to the desert, to Jerusalem and death. They are returning from the scene between Peter and Jesus. 'You are the Christ,' Peter had said, 'but you shall not be crucified': he began to rebuke Jesus. Jesus will not be deterred; he turns towards his glory and lifting up upon the cross. So, it is on this journey towards death that these chosen apostles follow their Lord up the 'high mountain'. And he was transfigured.

Moses and Elijah see the glory of God shining from the face of Jesus... and they were talking with him: the Law and the Prophets converse with their Lord face to face. For the apostles, the veil of glory is pulled back. No wonder Peter did not know what to say. The divine experiences of Moses and Elijah are brought to bear upon the apostles' experience of Jesus – and our experience too, who also do not know what to say.

But we have not considered yet what mountain top event is set alongside the transfiguration. At the beginning of God's relationship with Israel he asks for Isaac, the child of the promise. God asks for his life... in the wilderness, on the mountain of Moriah. Moses and Elijah talk with Jesus, the Law and the Prophets, not Abraham, not Isaac. Why do we look to this sacrifice of our father in faith for a sense of Jesus's revelation on this high mountain? Isaac, the Son of the promise, has the wood laid on his shoulder and climbs the mount at the will of his Father. 'And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.'

The real glory of Jesus is up on the mountain of passion – his Passion and Death on Golgotha. 'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.' The veil of glory, momentarily pulled back on the mountain of the transfiguration, is torn in two from top to bottom by the cross – the end of the journey Jesus is now making, the last mountain to climb. The light of God's ineffable love for us shines out from the cross of Christ, the light that Moses, Elijah and Abraham began to see, but only from their vantage point on the top of the mountain. The mountain top revelation to a chosen few has become the sign lifted up from the earth for all men to see and be drawn to.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 28th February (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Neil Browne (Anniv) & Seamus Browne (Anniv)
Sunday 1st March – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
08.30 People of the Parish
10.00 George Thurmer RIP
11.30 Paddy Sloane (Anniv)
Monday 2nd – Lent feria
09.30 David Unwin RIP
Tuesday 3rd – Lent feria
09.30 Gerry Dihgnan
Wednesday 4th – Lent feria
19.00 Angelo Britto RIP
Thursday 5th – Lent feria
09.30 Monica Fitzmaurice (Anniv)
Friday 6th – Lent feria, *Women's World Day of Prayer*
09.30 Marcella Lydon RIP
10.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11.00 Funeral of Daniel Ryan 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.

Recently Deceased, Rev. Fr. Chelston Dias S.J., Daniel Ryan, Hazel Lewis, Charles Garthwaite, Donald Tate.

Pray Also For, Neil Browne & Seamus Browne, Paddy Sloane, Monica Fitzmaurice, Joan Barry, Jack O'Gorman, Istvan Papp, Katherine Obi, Margaret Caden, Sylvester Rebbitt, Archie O'Brien, François Joseph, Helen Cronin, Delia Murphy, Noel Johns, John Dignam, Veronica Furie, Doris McNulty, Helen Leahy, John Rogers, Brian Morahan, Gilbert Lee, Ghandy Mangani and Celeste Robinson whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Daniel Ryan who has died. Requiem Mass on Friday, 6th March at 11am at St John Fisher followed by committal at Carpenders Park Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Altar Servers Next week **7th/8th March Team A** will serve.

Lent & Penance Service at St. John Fisher A Service of Penance and Reconciliation with absolution will take place on Friday, 13th March at 7.30pm.

Lent Lunch Churches in North Harrow arrange to serve a light lunch on each Saturday during Lent to raise money for St. Luke's Hospice. Dates: March 7th St George's, Pinner View; March 14th Elmfield Church, Imperial Drive; March 21st St Alban's Church, The Ridgeway, Hall entrance and car park Norwood Drive; March 28th Sinai Mar Thoma Church at St George's, Pinner View. There is no charge for the meal, just a box on the table for your donation.

Lent Talks Churches Together have a series of talks at the Methodist Church on Tuesdays during Lent at 8pm. The speaker is The Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths. Further information in the porch.

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. **We meet today after the 11.30am mass in the Fisher Room.** For more info contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com or Sherna Bhadresa at sherna_bhadresa@msn.com / 07785 615791. Our Facebook page is: 'SJF Young Adults'.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

8.30am, 9.30am (see note below), 11.30am

Holy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

9.30am Morning Prayer
1.00pm Children's Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
8.00pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

9.30am Morning Prayer
8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Mass as Normal

Easter Monday Mass at 11am

Palm Sunday – 29th March 10am Mass We will gather at 9.30am outside St. John Fisher Church in order to process to St. Alban's for an ecumenical Liturgy of the Word at 9.45am. Thereafter we will return to St. John Fisher for Mass which will resume at the offertory. Please make every effort to be on time and collect your palm so that we can leave together for this special occasion.

SJF Ladies Club On 4th March John Billiet is giving an informative talk on the reordering of the church after 7pm mass. Everyone welcome - it promises to be an exciting evening.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 5th March 2015 at 8pm in the Social Club.

Women's World Day of Prayer On Friday 6th March 2015 women across the world will pray together. The service followed by afternoon tea is being held at 1.30pm in Elmfield Church, Imperial Drive, North Harrow (opposite St John Fisher church). All are invited to come. *Angela Daley for WWDP North Harrow*

Parish Women's Group Invites you and your friends to a talk by Rosmarie Nettleton about, *living as a child, in Germany throughout World War 2*. Rosmarie, an experienced speaker, has a fascinating personal story to tell about life 'on the other side'. On **Thursday, March 12th at 8pm** in the small hall. Cost £1. Small contributions of snacks, finger food or a bottle to share will be greatly appreciated. For more info please contact Barbara Towell on 8866 6665 or barbaratowell@sky.com.

The Pylon - 2015 Summer edition Thank you for the excellent feedback we have received with regard to the new format of The Pylon. The editorial team are always striving to make the magazine better and as interesting as possible, therefore we depend on you to submit such material to share with other readers. **Please send us:-** the latest news from Parish groups; articles on travel, local interest, stories or hobbies; book and film recommendations; poems & short stories; recipes and for our new feature - photos and short pieces about your pet(s). Email barbaratowell@sky.com or place in the pigeonhole for Barbara Towell. **The deadline for all submissions is 15th May.**

SVP Lottery Tickets On sale in the porch after all Masses next weekend. This is our main fund raising event so all contributions gratefully received. For prizes & details, see poster in the porch.

Table-top book clearance Religious & general interest books available in the porch after all Masses on Sat/Sun 7/8th March. Suggested min. donation 50p to the 'Poor Box' inside the church.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day 27th February Please return your envelopes today. Thank you for your support. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.