



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)

15th February 2015 ~ Sixth 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

The book of Leviticus laid down strict rules for dealing with contagious diseases like leprosy. They were harsh but necessary. The leper must be isolated from society and his loved ones until there was a cure. Jesus himself seems to have recognised that it was necessary to have official priestly procedures to monitor the state of the illness. Leprosy struck the healthy with terror just as Aids and Ebola have in recent times. Isolation wards are essential and the victim must not be touched by unprotected human contact.

The Gospel reveals the desperation of this leper and the huge risk he and Jesus were taking in crossing a profound social gulf. The reading from Mark emphasises this. Notice how the leper approaches, pleads, falls to his knees and begs to be healed. He is desperate. Jesus could have just spoken a healing word, he could have raised his hand to bless, without making any bodily human contact. But notice how Jesus's gesture of touch is stressed: he stretched out his hand and touched the leper. And immediately he is healed.



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

Why does Jesus insist on touching him and what is the significance of this miracle? The reason for touch is simple. Jesus touched him 'out of compassion'. He was able to sympathise with the suffering of the leper so that he willed to bring him out of his isolation. So many of Jesus's miracles involve touch because it expresses powerfully the way the loneliness which comes with illness and stigma is overcome.

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

Jesus has announced the presence of the Kingdom of God in his ministry. When he exorcises the unclean spirits he is pushing back Satan's kingdom in a very dramatic way. The leper symbolises the isolation and alienation which many who have been made outsiders experience in a hostile society. The healing is certainly dramatic but it dwells less on the sensational than on the leper who is healed and who can now return to the normal. He is restored to himself and given back to his loved ones. It is a sign of God's kingdom which through Jesus defeats the forces of evil and so breaks through the rigid barriers which a society can set up to protect itself against the outsider.

Leprosy can still act as a powerful symbol for the isolation which many experience in a society which stigmatises people who suffer from frightening illnesses or who are in some way seen as marginal. Even in the church we can reflect the rigid barriers of colour, class and race which society imposes and we react with fear and prejudice. In a society which is becoming increasingly lonely and isolated, despite the claims of the social media, the Church is called to be what it should, a community where Jew and Gentile coexist and where the lonely, the isolated and today's 'lepers' and untouchables can find a home and a helping hand which is stretched out to them in welcome.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 14th February (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 People of the Parish
Sunday 15th – 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
08.30 John Duffy (Anniv)
10.00 Mr & Mrs Leo RIP
11.30 Roselyn Hudson Selvarajah RIP & James Hudson Selvarajah RIP
Monday 16th – Feria, Sixth Week of Year 1
09.30 Joe Kelly RIP
Tuesday 17th – Feria
09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP
Wednesday 18th – **ASH WEDNESDAY** (Both Masses in the Parish Hall)
09.30 Brian Sturt RIP
19.00 Coral Carter RIP
Thursday 19th – Lent feria
09.30 Daya Rajakarier (Anniv)
Friday 20th – Lent feria
09.30 Desmond Carlin (Birthday)
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, Thomas Foye, Mrs. B. De Souza, Maureen Knight, Annie Singarayer, Marjone Clancy.

Pray Also For, John Duffy, Roselyn & James Hudson Selvarajah, Daya Rajakarier, David Notley, Bridget Davis, (baby) Terisa Stokes, Eileen Reilly, Ann Kelleher, Oswald McCarthy, Sheila Wlodarczyk, Theresa Orakwue, Agnes D'Souza, Patricia Rebbitt, Bridget Mary Hoft, Winifred Roach, John Foley, Pat Ryan, Gabriel Dias, Lil Cawley, Joan Chan, Delia Burke, Francis Roberts, Thomas Martin, Margaret Caden and Seamus Browne whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Mass on 16th to 20th February 2015 Please note that mass will be held in the Parish Hall on these days.

Baptisms We welcome Harry Coleman, Raeya De Sa and Kamron Kajendran who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Proclaim '15 This weekend everybody will receive the materials to participate in the three sessions of the Proclaim programme. You may meet in parish groups, as families or in your neighbourhood. Individuals may also participate though we would recommend that you share this in a group. If you would like to lead a group, please attend one of the following meetings in the Fisher room on either Monday, 16th February or Wednesday, 25th February at 7.30pm. Could you please let Neil Cocking know that you wish to attend the leaders meeting. His email is neilcocking@waitrose.com.

Job Vacancy We have two cleaning positions within the Parish. The first is for a cleaner for our Parish centre, Mon to Fri 6.30am-8.30am. The second is for a cleaner/ironer for the presbytery, 6 hours a week. Closing date: 16th February. For further details please contact Julie Dauncey at our HR department on juliedauncey@rcdow.org.uk.

Altar Servers Next week 21st/22nd Feb Team A will serve.

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. For more

information please contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com or Sherna Bhadresha at sherna_bhadresa@msn.com / [07899938438](tel:07899938438). Our Facebook page is: 'SJF Young Adults'.

Coffee Morning We look forward to welcoming you all to our 'Valentine's' coffee morning today after the 10.00am and 11.30am Masses. Please come and join us for a heart-shaped scone or a red velvet cupcake! Raffle tickets on sale after both Masses and all proceeds to our church.

Bethany Group Next meeting on Thursday, 19th February at 7.30pm.

Pancake Evening – Tuesday, 17th February We will be cooking and serving pancakes in our church hall on pancake day from 7pm-8.30pm. Have your pancakes made warm and ready for you. We welcome donations of pancakes or mix for us to cook. All donations help to raise money for St Luke's hospice. During Lent, one of our local churches prepares each Saturday a soup and sandwich lunch for the same cause. Venues will be in this bulletin.

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.

Annual Mass for all those buried in Harrow Weald Cemetery Will take place at All Saints Church, Uxbridge Rd, Harrow Weald on Monday, 16th February at 11am. This Mass will also include all those buried in Carpenders Park Cemetery.

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).

Pilgrimage to Lourdes May 11th-15th 2015. £500 Inc. Full board in the Agena Hotel, Trans. to airport, Insurance and 2 trips. Contact John O'Sullivan 0208 459 0279.

Diocesan Job Vacancies For more info please visit <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/>.

In case you are admitted to hospital In light of data protection, please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the RC Chaplain. Also state that you would like the RC Chaplain to visit you.

Carer (Part-time) Required 9am-1pm or 10am-2pm Monday to Friday. Some light household duties. £9 per hour. Contact Eddie Collins on 07803 150222 for more details.

Leaving the Parish or Change of Address? Please advise Claudia McHugh on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 020 8429 5681 so we may amend our records. Thank you.

New to the Parish? Please make yourself known after Mass to either Fr Shaun or Kay O'Connor so you may be registered and provided with all the relevant information.