



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)

8th March 2015 ~ Third 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

Every week in churches throughout the world, baskets of money will be carried up the aisle and presented to the priest who presides at mass. In today's Gospel, Jesus overturns the money changers tables, and throws them out. There is a difference between the offertory procession and the actions of the money changers, but it is a subtle one. In the early Church, it would be easier to see the difference since the offertory



procession would mean bringing up bread and wine for the Eucharist made in the homes of the people, and food for the poor. It would also include money and here we should be clear. There are plenty of verses which clearly look on money with a baneful eye. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. (1 Timothy 6:10 NRS) If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? (Luke 16:11 NRS). Judas betrays Jesus for money. His desire for money shows that we too might have an uneasiness about money.

Desiring money for its own sake is wrong for a reason which might sound wrong to Christian ears. Seeking money for its own sake is wrong because it is acting out of hope. To understand the distinction made by St Thomas Aquinas between the passion of hope (that is emotion) and the virtue of hope, a virtue is for Thomas a quality which no one can use badly and hope is only the virtue of Hope, when it is based on God and God alone. This is why Hope is a theological virtue. It centres on God. This is the hope which St Paul is speaking about which does not cause shame. This word is sometimes translated as disappoint or confound, because St Paul is thinking of the language of the Old Testament where the enemies of Israel are shamed when they fail to destroy Israel.

Hope without God as its object is merely an emotion, and it is a very destructive emotion. It is this emotional hope which makes people preoccupied with money for its own sake. The keynote of this hope is to look not at what we have but what we don't have. Happiness is always around the corner, but there is always another corner. So Christ clears the temple of those who have lost sight even of the hope offered by the old covenant. They were in the temple of God and they were thinking of everything except God. In effect, they weren't really in the temple.

Christian hope is found in trusting in what we have now. Christian hope lives in the moment, because the moment comes from God. So Christians take vows which seem to limit our options but in fact tie us to what God is asking and offering to us now. We are always in the right place, for the right reason, if we live in hope.

Hope is the virtue which enables us to touch God in our lives. It is the wisdom of the Cross, and the cross is the fulfilment of hope. If even the moment when Christ died, the darkest of all moments was in accordance with divine wisdom, why should we doubt that every other moment can be in accordance with his wisdom?

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 7th March (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Fatima Patricia Navamani (Anniv)
Sunday 8th March – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
08.30 Muriel Rochford RIP
10.00 People of the Parish
11.30 Patrick Monaghan (Anniv), James Monaghan RIP,

John Monaghan RIP

Monday 9th – Lent feria
09.30 June & Eddie Collins Int
Tuesday 10th – Lent feria
09.30 Anton Constantine RIP
Wednesday 11th – Lent feria
19.00 Margarete Bartocha RIP
Thursday 12th – Lent feria
09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP
Friday 13th – Lent feria
09.30 Maurice Malone (Anniv)

19.30 Reconciliation Service

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, John Monaghan, Ainsley Bayross.

Pray Also For, Fatima Patricia Navamani, Patrick Monaghan, Maurice Malone, Irene Smith, Margaret Turner, Maria McCulloch, Donal Ryan, John Orogun, Mary Cross, Michael Carolan, Mel Stiffle, Anna Castignetti, Rowland Kenworthy, Bruno Castignetti, Edward Goulding, Bob Le Forestier, Jack Conway, Charlie O'Brien, Kathleen Hayes, Derrick Mitchell, Delores Atkins, Catherine Cattigan, Joan Howard, John Forde, Giuseppe Marcellini, Milly Yarwood, Frederick Sutherland, John Cahill and Norma Mesquita whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Altar Servers Next week 14th/15th March Team B 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 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.

SVP Lottery Tickets On sale in the porch after all Masses this weekend. This is our main fund raising event so all contributions gratefully received. For prizes & details, see poster 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 on the first Sunday of the month except April which will be on 12th April in the Fisher Room.** For more info contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com or Sherna Bhadresha 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.

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. So **please do send us**:- the latest news from Parish groups; articles possibly on travel, local interest stories or hobbies; book and film recommendations; poems and short stories for our Creative Writing Pages; recipes and for our new feature - photos and short pieces about your pet(s). Please email to barbaratowell@sky.com or place in the pigeonhole for Barbara Towell. **The deadline for all submissions is 15th May.**

12th Annual Theology of the Body lecture - 'Facing Difficulties in Christian Family Life: Insights from Theology of the Body' by Dr Peter Kahn, Director of Studies of the Liverpool University Higher Education Programme on 20th March 2015 at 6.45pm, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN. Please register your interest at family@rcdow.org.uk. Tickets, sold on the door, £10 or £5 concessions (OAP, students/unemployed).

Table-top book clearance Religious & general interest books available in the porch after all Masses this weekend. Suggested min. donation 50p to the 'Poor Box' inside the church.

Lost property An item of jewellery has been found in the Parish Hall. Please contact Claudia on 020 8429 5681 or claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day 27th February You can still return your envelopes. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.