



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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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)

22nd March 2015 ~ Fifth 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

Pope Francis recently gave a homily where he recalled the story of the woman who wept over the feet of Jesus and then dried his feet with her hair.

“Love and forgiveness are simultaneous: God forgives her much, everything, because “she loved much” (Luke 7:47); and she adores Jesus because she feels that in Him there is mercy and not condemnation. Thanks to Jesus, God casts her many sins away behind Him, He remembers them no more (cf. Is 43:25). For her, a new season now begins; she is reborn in love, to a new life. This woman has really met the Lord. In silence, she opened her heart to Him; in pain, she showed repentance for her sins; with her tears, she appealed to the goodness of God for forgiveness. For her, there will be no judgment except that which comes from God, and this is the judgment of mercy.”

The pope then reflected on the role of Simon the Pharisee in whose house Jesus was at the time, Jesus notes that Simon is concerned with the externals, with appearance and the formality of the moment he has a concern for justice, and this keeps him on the surface of things. Therefore, Simon is not able to recognise Jesus as the Messiah, the one who brings the gifts of love, compassion and forgiveness. The pope continues,

“The call of Jesus pushes each of us never to stop at the surface of things, especially when we are dealing with a person. We are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart to see how much generosity everyone is capable. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; everyone knows the way to access it and the Church is the house that welcomes all and refuses no one. Its doors remain wide open, so that those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness. The greater the sin, so much the greater must be the love that the Church expresses toward those who convert.

Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought about how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy. It is a journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. For this reason, I have decided to call an extraordinary Jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its centre. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live this Year in the light of the Lord's words: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (cf. Lk 6:36)”

This Holy Year will begin on this coming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will end on November 20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - and living face of the Father's mercy. I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time. From this moment, we entrust this Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she might turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey.”

So at the end of 2015 a Holy Year dedicated to understanding the mercy of God in our lives will begin. Let us prepare for this great event by dedicating ourselves to being agents of God's mercy, to forgive those people in our lives who have hurt us, in that way we will have used this time of Lent well.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 21st March (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Mrs. Queenie Enright RIP

Sunday 22nd – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Gabriel Faria RIP

11.30 Matilda Albert (Anniv)

Monday 23rd – Lent feria

09.30 Mary Carroll RIP

Tuesday 24th – Lent feria (**St John Fisher School attending Mass**)

09.30 Ryan, Crick & Moore Families RIP

Wednesday 25th – **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

19.00 Sheila Oleman

Thursday 26th – Lent feria

09.30 The Moring Family

Friday 27th – Lent feria

09.30 P.J. Mallony (Sick)

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, Sean Mullany, Elvira Bird, Daisy Heffernan.

Pray Also For, Matilda Albert, Bertie Pillai, Paul Esler, Alfred Hill, Stephen D’Cruz, Margaret Rogers, Josephine Doyle, Sabina Walsh, Charles Brown, Walter Jackson, Sean Kelly, Antonio Cacchioli, José Duran Carballo, Michael Lee, Ned O’Neill, Ann Castell and Kathleen Truscott whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Penelope Amui, Emily Conboy, Luca Pignataro and Florence Watts-Morrison who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Altar Servers Next week 28th/29th March Team B will serve.

Planned Giving 2015/16 Planned Giving envelopes are available in the Church porch in **alphabetical order**. **Please collect your named box of envelopes as soon as possible but do not use them until Sunday, 12th April.**

Traidcraft Stall Open after all masses this weekend. On sale are ‘Real Easter Eggs’ and other Fairtrade chocolate and sweets.

Churches Together in North Harrow This Easter our local churches are again working together to deliver Easter greeting cards to all houses in the neighbourhood. Please offer to help by contacting Nicola on 020 8868 2536 or nicola.bowen2@ntlworld.com.

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 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.

Walk of Witness Each Good Friday we are invited to walk from outside St Alban’s church on the Ridgeway at 11.30am to St George’s church in Harrow View following the cross. This Walk of Witness is an opportunity for Christians together to acknowledge the true meaning of Good Friday. A map of the walk will be on display on the notice board in the porch, you may join or leave at any point. The walk in total takes about 1 3/4 hrs. Please join as St John Fisher form the biggest congregation in our area.

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.

Palm Crosses Please come and help the UCM make crosses from the palm leaves in the small hall on Thursday, 26th March at 2pm. It’s good fun and a sociable afternoon. Please bring scissors.

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.**

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.**

In line with the Proclaim 15 Project initiated by the bishops of England and Wales, the Young Adults will be meeting **today after the 11.30am mass in the Fisher Room** to hold their 3rd session of Proclaim 15 respectively. All are invited!!! 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’.

Stations of the Cross – ‘Walking with Jesus and Refugees’ in Westminster and Whitehall On Friday 27th March 2015 from 3pm. Please see poster in the porch.

Easter Offering Attached to this week’s newsletter is an envelope in which you can make an Easter Offering for Fr. Shaun. These offerings support him in his ministry here in the Parish and they will be collected over the Masses of Easter. Thank you for your kindness and generosity at this time.