



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531

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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)

29th March 2015 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Palm Sunday is an occasion for reflecting on the final week of Jesus's life. It is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts for the agony of His Passion and the joy of His Resurrection.

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

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" to



honour him as their long-awaited Messiah and King. The significance of Jesus riding a donkey and having his way paved with palm branches is a fulfilment of a prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9). In biblical times, the regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. The donkey was a symbol of peace; those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. The laying of palm branches indicated that the king or dignitary was arriving in victory or triumph.

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

The celebration of Palm Sunday originated in the Jerusalem Church, around the late fourth century. The early Palm Sunday ceremony consisted of prayers, hymns, and sermons recited by the clergy while the people walked to various holy sites throughout the city. At the final site, the place where Christ ascended into heaven, the clergy would read from the gospels concerning the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In the early evening they would return to the city reciting: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord." The children would carry palm and olive branches as the people returned through the city back to the church, where they would hold evening services.

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

By the fifth century, the Palm Sunday celebration had spread as far as Constantinople. Changes made in the sixth and seventh centuries resulted in two new Palm Sunday traditions - the ritual blessing of the palms, and a morning procession instead of an evening one. Adopted by the Western Church in the eighth century, the celebration received the name "Dominica in Palmis," or "Palm Sunday".

Today, Palm Sunday traditions are much the same as they have been since the tenth century. The ceremony begins with the blessing of the palms. The procession follows, then Mass is celebrated, wherein the Passion is read. Afterwards, many people take the palms home and place them in houses. In some countries, palms are placed on the graves of the departed. The palms blessed in the ceremony are burned and the ashes are then preserved for next year's Ash Wednesday celebration.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 28th March (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Marie & Ernie Crompton RIP

Sunday 29th – **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

08.30 Margarete Bartocha RIP

09.30 People of the Parish

11.30 Rasiah Albert (Anniv)

Monday 30th – MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

09.30 Harold Carter (Anniv)

10.30 Funeral of Ellen Kiernan RIP

Tuesday 31st – TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

09.30 Seamus Monaghan RIP

Wednesday 1st April – WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

19.00 Donal Ryan RIP

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper

20.00 Sick & Recently Deceased of the Parish

GOOD FRIDAY

09.30 Morning Prayer

13.00 Children's Stations of the Cross

15.00 Celebration of the Lord's Passion

20.00 Stations of the Cross

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, Ellen Kiernan, Mr. D. Molloy, Patrick Slattery, Christopher Morris.

Pray Also For, Rasiah Albert, Harold Carter, Bernard Letchet, Barbara Dyt, Lucy "Lucille" Goulding, Marian Blazek, Michael Stiffle, Quentin Gill, May McDonagh, Clifford Perera, Phebe Martins, Avito Saldanha, Clifford Perera, Keith Bowker, Cecil Cobb, Marian O'Dea, Darren Jones and Maureen Orogun whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Ellen Kiernan who has died. Requiem Mass on Monday, 30th March at 10.30am at St John Fisher followed by committal at Pinner New Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

Altar Servers Next week 4th/5th April Team A 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.**

Churches Together in North Harrow If you have offered to help distribute Easter greetings cards please collect your pack of cards from the porch.

Holy Week Posters Are available in the Church porch. Please take one to display in your home.

Chrism Mass Takes place at Westminster Cathedral at 12 Noon on Tuesday, 31st March. Please keep the priests of the Diocese in your prayers on this day.

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.

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.** 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'.

DIY Tea & Coffee is now available in St John Fisher Social Club In response to Parishioner feedback, we now have Tea & Coffee making facilities available in the Bar. So if you fancy a chat with your friends and family after 11.30am Mass on a Sunday, you are very welcome to come in to make yourselves a drink and catch up with each other. We only ask that you give a small donation for using this facility. Bad news is that you'll have to bring your own biscuits. So please feel free to drop in. Any enquiries please contact stephen.pal121@virginmedia.com.

Trip to Turin to view the Holy Shroud On 20th - 22nd April. The shroud is available for public viewing from April to June this year. Cost £330 on a half board basis. Contact Liam Driver on 07415 520 494.

Pilgrims Progress The April edition, including details of the Good Friday Walk of Witness, is available in the porch.

Are you a budding Actor? Belmont Theatre are looking for 2 men in their 20's 30's to be cast in Relative Values. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. There must be some young men about but they are proving elusive to find. The play is on 27th-30th May at the Pump House, Watford and we rehearse in Carpenders Park twice a week on a Tues & Thurs Evening. If you think you might be able to help us please contact Laurence Conway 8907 9931 email laurenceconway@btinternet.com or Michael Collins 8864 3104 email michaelc76@outlook.com.

Parnells Minor Gaelic Football Club Summer Training Starts on Wednesday 1st April @ Northwick Park. Boys and Girls of all ages and abilities welcome. See poster on notice board in the porch.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day Thank you for your generous response - £1,474.51 was donated.

Collection Please remember that on Good Friday we will be taking a collection for the charities that we are asked to support throughout the year.

Easter Offering In the porch you will find Easter Offering envelopes 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.