



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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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)

## 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015 ~ Sixteenth Sunday of the Year B

In today's gospel reading we notice two motifs; withdrawal to the desert and the need for a shepherd. The second of these is highlighted by the choice of first reading, as well as in the responsorial psalm.

### *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

In Scripture the desert or 'wilderness' (Hebrew midbar, Greek *érēmos*), is a special place, it is often and archetypically, where God renews His connection with those who seek Him. Far from being sterile and desolate, the wilderness in a biblical perspective means a free land which is unappropriated territory, it is not fenced off or owned by anyone and it affords free range for shepherds and their flocks.

Pilgrims to the Holy Land, as they drive through the wilderness, see on either side of the road not some barren lunar landscape: on the contrary, in the clefts and slopes there will be patches of corn, clumps of olives, an occasional palm tree and long stretches of low-growing vegetation. Indeed, as Mark goes on to note, there was an abundance of 'green grass' in this deserted place (verse 39). Moreover, Jesus contrasts the place with the 'towns and villages', evidently not very far away (verse 36). The point in Mark's account is, that the desert belongs to no one — or rather, it is in the wilderness that God may bring about something new.

As nobody's territory, unoccupied and unfenced, the wilderness lay open to shepherds and their flocks. It was a natural enough reaction for Jesus to see the crowds as like 'sheep without a shepherd', seething and swirling around him, desperately in need of guidance and direction. Taking pity on them, Jesus begins to teach — Mark doesn't say what he tells them. Clearly, however, Jesus gathers the people round him. In effect he takes on the role of shepherd, so natural an analogy in the particular circumstances, but of course charged with such a lengthy list of biblical precedents, all the way back to Abraham our father in faith.



As our first reading insists, there will be 'shepherds for them [the people] who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the Lord'. Christ is the true shepherd, and it is he who will guard us and keep us safe.

*Fr Shaun.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Kathleen Allen RIP

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 James Pettifer RIP & Family

11.30 Donal Ryan RIP

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Feria, Sixteenth Week of Year 1

09.30 Armour Blair RIP

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Feria

09.30 Jim Delahunty (Anniv)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – St Mary Magdalene

19.00 Susan Williams RIP

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – ST BRIDGET, Religious, Patron of Europe

09.30 Herta Moser (Good Health)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Feria

09.30 Sally Sloane (Anniv)

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,

**Pray Also For** Jim Delahunty, Sally Sloane, Horst Nekut, Kevin Flynn, Paddy O'Brien, Blanche Contaminard, Beatrice Pereira, Bridget Byrne, Ida Bastiampillai, Mary Cleary, John Bennet, Caroline Reddyhoff, Jim Leeson and Christopher Mortimer whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Funeral of Anthony Christopher Geraghty – Please note new dates, times and place** Reception Service on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm at Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, Harrow-on-the-Hill. Requiem Mass on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July at 10am at Harrow-on-the-Hill followed by interment at Northwood Cemetery at 11.45am.

**Altar Servers** There will be no rota from 25<sup>th</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> August. You may turn up to serve at any Mass.

**The Pylon - Summer edition 2015** Don't forget to buy your copy of our parish magazine! Price £1 (please put money in 'Papers' box). In this packed edition you will find much to interest the whole family. For instance, how is Ann Anderson adapting to life in Fareham? Read all about events which have taken place during the past months at St. John Fisher, including an exclusive about Father Shaun's dog, Dylan. Find out about Johnpromise's life and his journey towards priesthood. Learn what Harry Jukes, one of our altar servers, has chosen for his 'Desert Island Discs'. There are stories written by parishioners and much more for you to enjoy.

**Traidcraft Stall** Is open this weekend after all Masses for the last time before our Summer break. Come and browse the special offers in our summer sale. We will be meeting to review the past year and share ideas for the future at 8pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July and we would welcome other parishioners. Please email [sjftraidcraft@gmail.com](mailto:sjftraidcraft@gmail.com) if you would like to come or with your feedback or ideas.

**SJF Ladies Club** We are meeting on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July after the 7pm Mass in the Fisher Room for a film night "La Vie En Rose", the story of Edith Piaf. All welcome, charge £1.

**SJF Young Adults Group** This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together, to get to know one another

and 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. **Our next meeting will be in the Fisher Room on 6<sup>th</sup> September after 11.30am Mass.** Contact Johnpromise [promisemagnus@yahoo.com](mailto:promisemagnus@yahoo.com) or Sherna Bhadresa [sherna\\_bhadresa@msn.com](mailto:sherna_bhadresa@msn.com). Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

**St. John Fisher Flower Festival** To celebrate the consecration of our church, a flower festival will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September. Parishioners are invited to sponsor a floral display. For further information, please contact either Fr. Shaun at the Parish House or Mary Evans (8868 2884/[maryjeffevans@gmail.com](mailto:maryjeffevans@gmail.com)). On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a Ploughman's lunch and cream tea to which all are invited and for which a small charge will be made. All proceeds from the festival will go towards our parish debt.

**Mass Intentions** Thank you for your mass intentions which are greatly appreciated. We have Mass cards in the Church porch: for the living and for the dead. The cards are 50p each (please put money in 'papers' box at the back of the Church) and the offering suggested by the Diocese for a Mass is £10. If, however, you cannot afford this, £5 will suffice. If you would like to have a Mass offered, please contact Claudia on 020 8429 5681 or [claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk).

**Getting Married** Please remember that it is a requirement of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales that at least six months notice be given if you intend to get married. We need this time to process the paperwork and to ensure that you can have access to Marriage Preparation.

**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.

**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.

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

**International Day Raffle Prize Winners** 1st Prize - £250 Courtesy of Robertson Phillips - Joanna Materka; 2nd Prize - Golf Lesson with a Pro - Joanna Materka; 3rd Prize - Family ticket to Willows Farm - Anne Quilter; 4th Prize - Dinner for two at Friends Restaurant - Russell Family; 5th Prize - £50 Pullen School Uniform Voucher - Loretta Regis; 6th Prize - 2 Free MOT's from PMC - Gralino Family; 7th Prize - Smart Guys Dry Cleaning - Swaroop Dupugant (Collected); 8th Prize - Sea Pebbles Takeaway for 2 - Mary Niangasa (Collected); 9th Prize - Free MOT from the Tyre & Exhaust - Tom Shaughnessy; 10th Prize - Explore Learning Voucher - The Burton Family.

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes** Oct 5-9 Cost is £500, which includes insurance, transport to airports, full board at the Agena Hotel and trips to Bartres and San Pierre. Details from: John O'Sullivan at 020 8459 0279.