



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)

4th October 2015 ~ Twenty-Seventh 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

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

When God created man, as we are given to understand in the book of Genesis, he saw that it was not good for him to be alone.(Gen. 2:18) And so he created woman. In that brief account, at the very beginning of the Bible, of an essential part of God's creation we learn of God's wisdom, compassion and love in forming the first 'marriage'. The continuation of the human race exists thanks to God's willingness to allow men and women to play a vital role in the continuation of his creative process, giving them a prime function in sharing God's re-creative power.

The approaching Synod of the Church is about to gather in Rome in October for the second time to discuss matters relating to family life and society's attitude towards marriage, co-habitation, same-sex unions, gay relationships, annulments and separations, all topics of immense importance for the majority of humanity – or should be!

Many of us are conscious of the diversity of views held in conscience by so many followers of Christ with regard to family life and the issues surrounding human sexuality; and we are equally conscious of the anguish and pain that can be caused by a perceived reluctance on the part of the Church, to put into practice the compassion and forgiveness that is shown by Christ himself. If we are to be truly Christ-like in our dealings with divisive issues related to family life, we must exercise mercy, Pope Francis tells us, discovering in that mercy the love and compassion of God our Creator, and Christ our Redeemer.

Whatever our individual interpretation of the Church's teaching, we need to pray constantly for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to inspire the Synod to discuss the problems often experienced in modern family life, taking as our lead the words spoken by the Holy Father in Philadelphia last week, at the conclusion of a memorable visit, when he expressed pleasure at the huge gathering saying, "It's worth being a family!" In saying this, Pope Francis demonstrates his conviction in the permanence of marriage, supporting the Church's teaching that the commitment made by couples to each other is a lifelong commitment, as contained in the vows made to each other.

The Mosaic Law allowed a man to leave his wife by issuing a "writ of dismissal" (Deuteronomy 24) and this is the reason for the Pharisees questioning Jesus in order to test him. The answer given by Jesus indicates that Moses had given this law to the Israelites because they were so "unteachable" and hard-hearted. But then Christ explains to his disciples unequivocally, that God created man and woman to be complementary to one another, from the beginning of creation, the man leaving father and mother, and the two becoming one. In all of Christ's earthly teaching he insisted that he had come "not to abolish the Old Law, but to fulfil it", (Mt. 5:17) and in his response to his disciples he gave a clear understanding that what God has joined together, man must not divide.

In all the forthcoming Synodal discussions of the Church's doctrine it is important that all the issues relating to today's family life are examined with open minds, allowing the eventual decisions reached to be guided by the Holy Spirit. Such decisions should be the result of much prayerful contemplation on behalf of all those who are engaged in the future guidance on family life in all its aspects.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 3rd October (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Eileen Hayes RIP

Sunday 4th – 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Bernard Barker (Anniv)

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Celine Marie Arulanantham RIP

Monday 5th – Feria, Twenty-Seventh Week of Year 1

09.30 June Collins (Int)

Tuesday 6th – Feria

09.30 Chris Caldwell (Anniv)

Wednesday 7th – Our Lady of the Rosary

19.00 Mario Tribaudi (Int)

Thursday 8th – Feria

09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP

Friday 9th – Feria

09.30 John Kelly RIP

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, Lilian Lim, Beryl Martin, Patricia Jackson.

Pray Also For Bernard Barker, Chris Caldwell, Stephen Rizkallah, Sarah Hegarty, Christine James, Patricia Dunmore, Helen Williams, Peter Golden, Keith Phaure, Dennis O'Connor, Edith Steinitz and Joseph McGeoghan whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Amy Ahearn, Skylyn Pereira, Aubree-May Privato and Oscar Wynne who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Michael Roache RIP The family wish to thank everyone for their kind prayers, mass cards, sympathy and support following their recent bereavement. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Altar Servers Next week 10th/11th Oct Team B will serve.

Children in non-catholic Primary School Year 2-6 Are invited to attend class on Saturday, 17th October from 9am-10.30am in the Fisher Room.

Confirmation Candidates Meeting On Monday, 2nd November at 5.30pm in the Parish Hall. This meeting will last for 1 hour.

Annual Parish Meeting To be held on Monday, 23rd November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Items for the Agenda should be notified, in writing, to the Chairman c/o the Parish House, no later than 14 days prior to the meeting. At this meeting we will be submitting a re-draft of the Parish Constitution for your approval.

Parish 100 Club Winners - September Draw 1st prize - £125 Elizabeth Gallagher, 2nd prize - £100 Marie Gregory, 3rd prize - £60 Toni & Jim Reilly, 4th prize - £30 Bridie Flanagan. Many congratulations to this month's winners. Please could parishioners who pay quarterly or six monthly (by cash/cheque) make their next contribution asap to be included in any future lottery draws. You've got to be in it to win it!

School Admission Fr. Shaun will sign school forms for **SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFERS** on 10th October 2015 at 10.30am-12.30pm in the Parish Hall (*forms have to be with the schools by 23rd October at the latest*) by APPOINTMENT ONLY so please contact Claudia McHugh on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 8429 5681 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm). When making your appointment please advise the number of schools you are

applying for, your child's name & a contact telephone number.

Altar Servers Anyone who wishes to become an altar server is invited to attend a training session on 21st October 2015 at 6pm in the Church. Please make sure you have given your details to Kay beforehand, kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk / 020 8429 5682.

Welcome Ministry Rota Please collect your new rota from the pigeon hole in the porch and/or see our website.

Counting Rota Please collect your new rota commencing from 4th October 2015 from the pigeon hole in the porch and/or see our website.

Church Cleaners Needed! Several of our very hard working and long serving church cleaners have had to hang up their dusters so if you could spare one hour every 4 or 5 weeks, either on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday morning, please contact the presbytery on 020 8868 7531 or harrownorth@rcdow.org.uk. Many thanks!

Italian Evening On Saturday, 7th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Sign-up sheets in the Church porch. Tickets cost £20 for adults and £8 for children (under 12 yrs) which includes a three course Italian meal with wine and entertainment. All funds raised will go towards the parish debt.

SJF Ladies Club We are meeting on Wednesday, 7th October after the 7pm Mass in the Fisher Room for a film night "Selma", the story of Martin Luther King. All welcome, charge £1.

Parish Women's Group All are welcome to come to our Book Club evening on Thursday, 8th October at 8pm in the small hall of the Parish Centre. Cost £1. We shall be discussing 'The Girl on the Train' by Paula Hawkins. Even if you have not read the novel, feel free to join us as we also spend time recommending books we have enjoyed. A small contribution of snacks or a bottle to share would be appreciated. The Parish Women's Group is a friendly group open to all women of the parish and their female friends. For more info contact Barbara Towell at 020 8866 6665 or barbaratowell@sky.com.

The Pylon - Christmas edition 2015 Please send us your articles, original short stories, poems, book/film reviews, accounts of parish events, holiday recommendations, recipes, advice, about your pets - in fact, anything that you think would be of interest to our readers. (Word limit approx. 1,200.) We would welcome contributions with a Christmas flavour as well as items written by children and the younger members of our parish. We look forward to receiving these. Thank you. **Deadline is Saturday, November 7th**. Please email items to barbaratowell@sky.com or place in pigeonhole in the porch at the back of the church.

St John Fisher School Harvest Festival We are delighted to invite senior parishioners to our Harvest Assembly followed by refreshments on Tuesday, 13th October at 9.30am in the school hall. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Harrow Support Group for separated & divorced Catholics The next meeting will be on Monday, 5th October at 8pm in St Bernard's Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics are welcome. For info please contact Jill 020 8204 3714.

Charity 'Vintage Tea Party' - In aid of Michael Sobell Hospice & The Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre On Friday, 16th October 2015 at 2-5pm at the North Harrow Home Guard Club, Car Park, North Harrow. Tea, cakes, tombola, raffle & book stall.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 2nd October Please return your envelopes today. Thank you for your support. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.