



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

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10th January 2016 ~ The Baptism of the Lord

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

*Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy towards us,
and after this our exile,
show unto us the Blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

*Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.*

Today we celebrate the feast of the baptism of the Lord. However, if we identify the key things which occur when one of us is baptised and ask whether they also occurred in Jesus's baptism then we discover that they didn't and that they couldn't have.

Just think about it. When we're baptised we're healed from the guilt of original sin and we're incorporated into the Church. Did any of this happen to Christ? No. Jesus didn't suffer from original sin so he didn't need to be healed from it, and Jesus hadn't yet founded the Church so he couldn't be incorporated into it. And if that's not enough John's baptism - the baptism Jesus received - wasn't able to forgive sin and to incorporate people into the Church anyway. Those things only became possible after Christ's death and



resurrection. So not only did Jesus's baptism at the hands of John not have the same effects as our baptism did, but nor could it have had so what's going on in this feast and how does it relate to the end of Christmastide?

Of course, just because Jesus's baptism didn't heal him from the guilt of original sin or incorporate him into the church that's not to say it wasn't connected to those aims. God came into the world in Christ to redeem human beings from sin. And broadly speaking to achieve this aim three conditions had to be met: firstly, the power to redeem humans had to be present, secondly the means to redeem human beings had to be established and thirdly human beings had to be encouraged to avail of those means.

Take the first condition. Jesus was God so there's no question of him lacking the power to redeem human beings. As to the means of redemption, human beings have to share in the salvific death of Christ, which is accomplished most effectively through baptism and incorporation into the Church. That's not to say after baptism we can do as we please; baptism doesn't give us a free pass into heaven regardless of what we do subsequently. Nor is it to say that God can't bring about salvation in any other way if he so chooses. Rather through baptism we get a fresh start and the chance to live in a way which, if we follow it, will lead to heaven.

It is not enough just to make the means of redemption available, though, more needs to be done, and that brings us to the third condition: people have to be encouraged to avail of the means of redemption. And the best way to do that is to give people an example so Christ submitted to John's baptism. In so doing Christ encouraged all of us to be baptised and he identified himself with sinful humanity as the one who will act on our behalf to save us.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 9th January 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 10th – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

08.30 Elena Molino & Family RIP

10.00 Agnes & Daniel O'Sullivan (Anniv)

11.30 Matilda Anton (Anniv)

Monday 11th – Feria, First Week of Year 2

09.30 Jim Cronin RIP

Tuesday 12th – Feria

09.30 Irene Mariner (Sick)

Wednesday 13th – Feria

10.00 Funeral of Susan Hill RIP

19.00 Mrs. T. Rynne RIP

Thursday 14th – Feria

09.30 Mrs. Catherine Mariasoosai RIP

Friday 15th – Feria

09.30 Nell O'Leary 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.

Recently Deceased, Susan Hill, Daniel Bowles, Brid Haswell, Doreen Carroll, Mary Byrne, Christopher Martin, John Taylor, Audrey Tufnell, Larry Power, Lilian Blackie, Maryanne Larkin-White.

Pray Also For Agnes & Daniel O'Sullivan, Matilda Anton, Joan Thrower, Hannah O'Leary, Timothy O'Sullivan, John & Mary Grogan, Frances Rowlands, June Haskell, James Fogarty, Gladys Bennett, Maria Porrello, Anna Chenley, James Murray, Marie Bayross, Elsie Yim, Nora Duffy, Myra Mahendra, Susan Gibbs, John Murphy, Bill Kennedy, Millicent Mabin, Ratnadurai Thayaparan, Allen Morgan, John Slavin, George Rolt, Marguerite Dalgliesh, Jane Hubert, Jesuthasan Daniel, Clement Onwuachu, Ian Scott, Loretta Souza, Graham Cooke, Freda Glynn and John McGovern.

Please Remember Susan Hill who has died. Requiem Mass on Wednesday, 13th January 2016 at 10.00am at St. John Fisher followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

Please Remember Daniel Bowles who has died. Reception Service on Thursday, 21st January 2016 at 7.00pm at St John Fisher. Requiem Mass on 22nd January 2016 at 10.30am followed by committal at Northwood Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends.

Baptisms We welcome Alexander Hope, Thomas Kenny, Matthew Maher and Vanora Walter who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Building Works The final inspection of the building works has taken place and a number of small surface shrinkage cracks to the walls and floors of the sanctuary have been found. Remedial works will be undertaken but these are unlikely to affect Services at the church.

Altar Servers 16th/17th Jan **Team B** will serve.

Year of Mercy - Harrow Deanery Station Masses During Lent in the Year of Mercy a series of Station Masses will take place in the different churches in the Deanery. An opportunity for Confession before Mass takes place at some of these celebrations. At 7.00pm priests will be available to hear Confession, Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm and there will be refreshments at 8.00pm. At each Mass one of the clergy will offer a reflection on Mercy.

Please note dates below:

Thursday, 11th February at St John Fisher, North Harrow*

**No Confessions at this Mass*

Thursday, 18th February at St Gabriel's, South Harrow

Thursday, 25th February at St Joseph's, Wealdstone

Thursday, 3rd March at St William of York, Stanmore

Thursday, 10th March at St Luke's, Pinner

Wednesday, 16th March at Our Lady & St Thomas, Harrow-on-the-Hill

Wednesday, 23rd March at St Theresa's, Headstone Lane.

SJF Young Adults Group This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together. We meet on the first Sunday of the month after the 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room. **Please note that today's meeting has been cancelled – apologies for the short notice. We meet again on Sunday, 7th February.**

Contact Sherna Bhadresa at sherna_bhadresa@msn.com/07785 615791. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

St John Fisher Social Club AGM On Sunday, 7th February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

Christmas Coffee Morning Prizes waiting for collection - pink ticket 381 Ms Harrison, yellow ticket 556 Ms Anthony, yellow ticket 671 & blue ticket 41. Contact Claudia 020 8429 5681.

Stamps for St. Luke's Hospice Please keep your used stamps and place these in the pigeonhole for Barbara Towell, or if too many, hand them into the parish office.

Refugee Volunteer Evening On 26th January at 6pm-8.30pm in the Westminster Centre for Youth Ministry, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston NW1 1TA. All welcome. See flier in the porch.

Mary's Meals "Rags to riches" collection will take place the weekend of 23rd/24th January 2016, so please collect together unwanted clothing including bags, blankets, towels, curtains, shoes and bedding (the condition does not matter) to bring to the church that weekend. Put your clothing etc (no bric-a-brac nor furniture) into tied sacks. Please do not bring before then and only textiles. Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Please see poster in porch.

Vocations Weekend for young women (20s and 30s) The theme is "Discerning God's Call in my life" on 29th - 31st January 2016 in Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. For more info contact Sr Lynne at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org.

SVP Vinnie Packs If you can sponsor a pack containing cold weather essentials for the homeless then please send £3.25 per pack to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** (cheques made out to SVP) or go to www.virginmoneygiving.com.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party To end the Christmas season with a bang rather than a whimper, we are pleased to invite our senior parishioners to come to lunch on Sunday, 31st January 2016 at 12.30pm. All replies to be returned to the presbytery by Sunday, 17th January.

NAME..... TEL NO.....

ADDRESS.....

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Please state clearly if you require transport.

TRANSPORT REQUIRED YES/NO