



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

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31st January 2016 ~ 4th Sunday of the Year C

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.*

In today's gospel reading, is Jesus receiving a hostile reception from the people of his home town? He has been off in foreign parts preaching and carrying out miracles, while people in Nazareth have been left suffering. We are told that the townsfolk are so disgruntled that they take Jesus up to a nearby hill and try to throw him off a cliff.

Perhaps the strong reaction to Jesus reflects that his challenge to his own people has divine significance. Jesus uses his appreciation of divine justice to challenge human injustice in fundamental terms. Jesus challenges his detractors in human terms, but perhaps it is a sense that his authority is divine that is really irksome.



Jesus turns around and challenges the very idea that he should be expected to stay at home. When the people in the gospel say "This is Joseph's son, surely?" they are perhaps hinting that he should stay with his family. But Jesus doesn't ignore this, instead he puts words into their mouths to express their true feeling, that what they really think is that what he did in Capernaum, curing the human condition through divine authority, he should be doing there.

He goes on to tell them that he won't do it. He tells how the prophets Elijah and Elisha ignored their own people and helped foreigners instead. He tells them bluntly that he will help all of humankind, even at the expense of his own people's perceived needs, and ultimately, at his own expense: when he gave himself up and died on the cross. It is perhaps then that the people wanted to kill him, when he exposed their base selfish human desires, and then so bluntly denied them.

What Jesus directly challenges, is the misdirected human instinct for survival at all costs; the survival of the individual, and then the survival of those immediately around us, or even just self-betterment, at the expense of everyone else. It is an instinct that is responsible for many injustices in the world: the developed world's less than impressive assistance to the developing world. Apartheid, nationalism, fascism, racism, tribalism, nepotism, and elitism all fall into this category.

Jesus challenges all that. Justice has to apply to all humanity equally and it has to be completely fulfilled: only then is it divine justice. Justice, the basic justice that one human being or group of human beings, owes to any other individual or group, knows of no boundaries between individuals, regions or nations. The worst thing you can do is deny someone justice, because ultimately that may mean denying them the food they need to live, and the spiritual food you and they need for human fulfilment: divine justice.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 30th January 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 31st – 4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Margarete Bartocha (1st Anniv)

10.00 Judith Rohini Christie (Anniv)

11.30 Annette & Danny Fadian (Anniv)

Monday 1st February – Feria, Fourth Week of Year 2

09.30 Audrey Tuffnell RIP

Tuesday 2nd – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

09.30 Larry Power RIP

Wednesday 3rd – Sts Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury

19.00 Peter & Bridie Flannery (Int)

Thursday 4th – Feria

09.30 Peter Flanagan RIP

Friday 5th – St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

09.30 Mary Byrne RIP

10.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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, Gloria David.

Pray Also For Margarete Bartocha, Judith Rohini Christie, Annette & Danny Fadian, Hazel Wight, Tess O'Reilly, Thelma Renner, Wyn O'Hagen, May Connick, Kathleen Coyle, Marian Wrzyszc, Barbara Riseley, Eileen Reilly, Doris Jones, Daniel Lynch, Catherine Dias, Marguerite Rogers, Mabel Morgan, Jack Hurst, Stan Phillips, Guy Verrier and Emily Jukes.

Altar Servers 6th/7th Feb **Team A** 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.

Welcome Ministry Rota Please collect your new rotas from the porch and/or see our website. We need more volunteers so if you are interested please contact Sue Moriarty at suemoriarty@sky.com.

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. We meet on the first Sunday of the month after the 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room. **Our next meeting is on Sunday, 7th February.** Contact Sherna Bhadresa at sherna_bhadresa@msn.com/07785 615791. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

SJF Ladies Club We are having a cup of tea and biscuit meeting on Wednesday, 3rd February after 7pm Mass in the small hall. All welcome.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 4th February 2016 at 8pm in the Social Club.

St John Fisher Social Club Membership subscriptions are now due and can be renewed during club opening hours or after Mass in the porch this weekend. Please note our AGM is on Sunday, 7th February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

Harrow Support Group for separated & divorced Catholics The next meeting of the Harrow Support Group will be on Monday, 1st February at 8pm in St Bernard's Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics, whatever their situation, are welcome. For further information please contact Jill 020 8204 3714 or Eileen 020 8756 1284.

Bible Study Course Join Fr. John Egan as he journeys through the Bible uncovering for us the 'big picture' of salvation history on Tuesday, 2nd Feb 2016 @ 7.30pm for 7 consecutive Tuesday nights at 'Our Lady of the Visitation' (Parish Centre), Greenford UB6 9AN. Cost is **Free!** To book, contact the parish office on 020 8578 1353. See poster on noticeboard.

Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes with Anointing of the Sick in Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 6th February 2016 at 2pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass by the bishops and priests.

Annual Mass for all those buried in Harrow Weald Cemetery will take place at All Saints Church, Uxbridge Rd, Harrow Weald on Monday, 15th February 2016 at 11.00am. This Mass also includes all those buried in Wealdstone and Carpenders Park Cemeteries.

Lent House Groups There are four house groups meeting weekly from February 8th to March 20th and looking at the book "Transformed by the Presence of Jesus". If you would like to join a group contact Marian for details of venues and times at marian@stjulians.plus.com / 020 8427 2870.

Lent Lunch Churches in North Harrow arrange to serve a light lunch on each Saturday during Lent. These raise money for St. Luke's Hospice who rely on voluntary contributions, as they have little NHS support. Do please go, dates as follows: Feb 20th North Harrow Methodist Church, Pinner Rd; February 27th Elmfield Church, Imperial Drive; March 5th Venue to be arranged; March 12th St George's, Pinner View; March 19th St Alban's Church, The Ridgeway, Hall entrance and car park Norwood Drive. There is no charge for the meal, just a box on the table for your donation.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May 2016 at 3pm The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact Claudia at claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk / 8429 5681 by **Friday, 26th February 2016** with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Mary's Meals I am delighted to say that the parish managed to give 2510kgs of unwanted clothes; there were also donations of £485.19 giving a total contribution of £1,740.19 which is a fantastic result. The amount raised will feed 142 children who will not only get fed one good, nutritious meal every school day for a whole year, but they will get an education too. Well done.