



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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21st February 2016 ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent Year C

'Be merciful, be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful. Misericordes sicut Pater. Misericordes sicut Pater.'

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.*

What we expect to hear in Lent are lessons on fasting, prayer, alms-giving and perhaps the corporal works of mercy. This Sunday however, as many have noted before, we are surprised to hear the account of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The leap from the lessons we heard last week - about the fasting of Christ, his hunger and resisting temptations of the devil - to the glory of Christ's divine face briefly revealed to the apostles on the mountain, seems initially a rather rushed if not an odd development.

Yet when we listen attentively to the story of Abraham who is led out of his homeland and given a promise of a great inheritance, and when we consider how persistently St Paul urges us not to trust in earthly things but rather put our heart in our 'heavenly commonwealth', it becomes clear that the readings are focused on expectation itself.

What do we expect of our Christian lives and religious practices? What do we expect of the Lord? Many of us simply seek peace of heart and mind in the life of faith. Many value the character building qualities of the Catholic discipline and want to raise their families in that spirit. Some want to strengthen their life of virtue. Some seek consolation because they are in pain and want to join their suffering to the suffering of Christ. Others still find here a treasure trove of energy and inspiration to make our world a better and more just place. We could surely continue here with a long list of possible answers. All of them are noble and good in themselves.

But today, only the second Sunday of Lent, another expectation is pointed at, prompted by the passage from St Luke's Gospel: it is the hopeful expectation to be raised to experience with Christ the glory of the Resurrection; the glory of his radiant face.

Our instincts may tell us to make the best of this world, to make the best of God's good creation and to govern it with justice. But we are reminded today we should not aspire to pitch our tents here in the expectation that we might forever glory in the clumsy successes of our earthly stewardship. To do so would be plain vanity.

The true prize of a faithful Christian life does not consist of a peace of heart and mind or consolation in suffering, however relevant they may be to our present situation. The true prize of our lives begins in the

Resurrection, the transformation of 'our lowly body after the pattern of Christ's own glorious body', and achieves its fullness and rest in the vision of God, face to face.

On this Sunday, and indeed everyday of our lives, we are invited to imitate St Paul, not just in the discipline of his life in Christ, but first of all in his hopeful expectation to be united with Christ in the glory of the Resurrection. Every time we fast or give alms, let us renew this expectation within us.

'A voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" 'And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.' (Luke 11:9).

Lord we ask you for nothing less than to open for us the doors of our heavenly home and to grant us the vision of your face in the glory of the world to come.



Fr Shaun

Holy Week

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 20th February 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 Felicidade D'Mello (Anniv), Sebastian D'Mello RIP
Sunday 21st – 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
08.30 People of the Parish
10.00 Maurice Malone (Anniv)
11.30 Eugenia Pinilla RIP
Monday 22nd – THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE
09.30 Lena Fowle
Tuesday 23rd – Lent feria
09.30 Peter Flanagan RIP
Wednesday 24th – Lent feria
19.00 Joseph Henry RIP
Thursday 25th – Lent feria
09.30 Desmond Carlin (Birthday)
Friday 26th – Lent feria
09.30 Bill Brady 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, Richard Green, Sarah Figueredo.

Pray Also For Felicidade D'Mello, Maurice Malone, Francis Roberts, Thomas Martin, Margaret Caden, Seamus Browne, Donal Ryan, Joe Reilly, Aristides Cordoba, Kitty Tully, John Noble, Patrick Kilcoyne, Eileen Steinitz, Leon St Hill, Michael Anderson, Nanette Burke, Joanna Roberts, Catherine Lissemore, Dina Frate, Trevor Dunkley, Patrick Savage, Eugenia Chellotti and George Niznik.

Peter Flanagan RIP Bridie wishes to thank everyone for their kind prayers, Mass cards, sympathy and support. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Altar Servers 27th/28th Feb **Team B** will serve.

Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday Morning during Lent. If you feel you could lead the Stations, please contact Kay or Claudia. We have a number of different versions of the stations that you might like to use. These are available in the sacristy.

Year of Mercy - Harrow Deanery Station Masses An opportunity for Confession at 7pm takes place at some of these celebrations. 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. **Dates as follows:**

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

Saturday Religious Education Classes Next Meeting on Saturday, 5th March 2016 at 9.00am-10.30am in the Fisher Room.

Fairtrade Foodstall is open in the porch after all masses this weekend. There are spring Traidcraft catalogues, 'Real' Easter eggs (with the Easter story) to buy or order & special offers.

Palm Sunday

8.30am, 9.30am (see note below), 11.30am

Holy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

9.30am Morning Prayer
1.00pm Children's Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
8.00pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

9.30am Morning Prayer
8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Mass as Normal

Easter Monday Mass at 11am

Palm Sunday – 20th March 10am Mass We will gather at 9.30am outside St. John Fisher Church in order to process to St. Alban's for an ecumenical Liturgy of the Word at 9.45am. Thereafter we will return to St. John Fisher for Mass which will resume at the offertory. Please make every effort to be on time and collect your palm so that we can leave together for this special occasion.

St John Fisher Lent House Groups 1) after Monday morning Mass, details and booklets from Neville Bayross (8863 8876), and (2) after Mass on Thursday mornings in the Fisher Room next to the sacristy, details and booklets from Tony McWilliams (8868 3205).

Lent Lunch Churches in North Harrow arrange to serve a light lunch on each Saturday during Lent to raise money for St. Luke's Hospice. On February 27th & March 5th Elmfield Church, Imperial Drive; March 12th St George's, Pinner View; March 19th St Alban's Church, The Ridgeway, Hall entrance & car park Norwood Drive. No charge for the meal, just a box on the table for your donation.

Bethany Group Meeting on Tuesday, 23rd February at 7.30pm.

SJF Ladies Club Our Deanery Holy Door is situated at St. William of York Church, Stanmore. Fr. Michael has kindly agreed to accommodate us at 11am on Wednesday, 9th March to go through the Holy Door. Anyone wishing to join us and needing transport, please ring Teresa on 8427 3063.

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).

Bring-and-share supper at SPEC - Monday 29th February 2016 at 6.00pm SPEC is the youth and children's retreat centre for the diocese. The community of staff and volunteer missionaries invites parishioners to join in a bring-and-share supper, some social time and some prayer time at their home at Waxwell House, 125 Waxwell Lane, Pinner. Please bring some food to share. For more info please see poster in the porch.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day 19th February Please return your envelopes today. Thank you for your support. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.