



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

28th February 2016 ~ 3rd Sunday of Lent 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.*

Moses, an exile tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of the Midianites, sees something strange: a bush blazing, but not consumed, and ambles across to inspect it further. There's no sense in the opening lines of this episode of any particular urgency on Moses' part, rather a welcome interruption of the tedium of herding. Moses is as yet cheerfully unaware that in approaching the mysterious fire he is about to encounter the far more awesome mystery of the God of his fathers, the living God of Israel.

Who was Moses? Born a male Hebrew at a time when his very existence was proscribed by law, drawn out of the Nile to become the adopted son of an Egyptian princess, his early religious experience was doubtless shaped and moulded by the complex theologies of Egypt's many deities. And yet if as a young man he had become so involved with the Hebrews as to kill in their defence it is probable that he had learned something of their religious traditions. Now, threatened with betrayal by those he had defended he was an exile, married to a priest's daughter and presumably adopting their customs as they had adopted him. Moses then is precisely not an exotically or impossibly remote figure but in his life's story prefigures the experiences of many people today. Where does he belong, where can he make his home?

In the course of this encounter Moses' life takes on a purpose and direction that will endure to the end. 'Moses, Moses' comes the compelling, repeated call from the blazing bush. The voice from the fire proclaims its identity: 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob'; declares a deep and compassionate involvement with Israel 'I have seen the affliction of my people' and announces their deliverance. So far so good. But then Moses learns of



his own role in this 'Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people ...'. Moses immediately protests 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?' To Pharaoh Moses is a renegade and possible murderer, to the Hebrews a suspect upstart they have already rejected. To these not unreasonable objections God simply replies 'But I will be with you'. Moses counters, 'If they (the Hebrews) ask me, what is his name, what shall I say?' Then God answers in threefold repetition: 'I am who I am ... say ... I am has sent me to you ... say Yahweh, the God of your fathers, has sent me to you.'

Moses is to know that what he meets is the God of Israel's past (of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), of its present (who sees its suffering) and of its future (the God who will lead them from slavery to freedom). It is a God of presence and action who addresses Moses – not remote, uninvolved, but a God who has acted, acts and will act.

The initiative is God's. God calls us, as he calls Moses, to let go of our idols and false securities and risk the adventure of loving, of living lives of mercy and compassion because 'I am' will be with us. That is perhaps the point of the challenging parable in today's Gospel. The tree must bear fruit, or perish. We must learn to keep company with the living, loving God, walk in his ways, or bring ourselves to destruction. Yet we are not on our own in this – there is the half-recognised figure of the gardener, who works with us to bring us to the new life of Easter.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 27th February 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Breda Keating RIP

Sunday 28th – 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 Patrick Sloane (Anniv)

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Ann & Patrick Kilcoyne (Anniv)

Monday 29th – Lent feria

09.30 Peter Flanagan RIP

Tuesday 1st March – ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales

09.30 Colin Hickman RIP

Wednesday 2nd – Lent feria

19.00 Manuel Ramos de Freitas RIP

Thursday 3rd – Lent feria

09.30 Alexandra Emmanuel RIP

Friday 4th – Lent feria

09.30 Monica Fitzmaurice (10th 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.

Recently Deceased, Irene Letchet, Noel Dunne, Patrick De Silva, Mrs T Doherty.

Pray Also For Patrick Sloane, Ann & Patrick Kilcoyne, Monica Fitzmaurice, James Small, Thomas Lee, Francis Roberts, Joan Barry, Jack O’Gorman, Istvan Papp, Katherine Obi, Margaret Caden, Sylvester Rebbitt, Archie O’Brien, François Joseph, Helen Cronin, Delia Murphy, Noel Johns, John Dignam, Veronica Furie, Doris McNulty and Helen Leahy.

Altar Servers 5th/6th March **Team A** 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. On 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.

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 3rd March 2016 at 8pm in the Social Club.

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

Proclaim’15 SJF Team Meeting after 7pm Mass on Wednesday, 2nd March in the small hall.

SJF Ladies Club Wednesday, 9th March – Anyone wishing to come with us to the Holy Door in Stanmore please meet in the car park at 10.15am so that we can organize transport.

SJF Young Adults Group This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together 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. **Please note we will meet again on Sunday, 13th March.** Contact Sherna Bhadresa at sherna_bhadresa@msn.com/07785 615791. Facebook ‘SJF Young Adults’.

Eucharistic Ministers & Readers Rotas 12th March–24th April are ready for collection from the relevant pigeon holes in the porch.

Holy Week

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.

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 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.

Palm Crosses Please come and help the SJF Ladies Club make crosses from the palm leaves on Thursday, 17th March. We are meeting in the small hall at 1.30/2pm. Please bring scissors. Tea/coffee provided.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 30th April - 7th May 2016 Join us for a spirit filled journey during our Lady’s month of May and be present at the monthly apparition to Mirjana. £519 incl. return flights, guided coach transfer through scenic Dubrovnik, half board accommodation next to the church, the best local guide in Medjugorje and a full programme. Contact Liam Driver at the National Medjugorje Movement on 07415 520494.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham Join Cardinal Vincent on the pilgrimage to Walsingham, England’s Nazareth, on 9th July 2016. With the theme of ‘Mary, the Mother of Mercy’, the day will include an outdoor Mass, procession with the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham and banners along the Holy Mile, prayers and Benediction in the Priory grounds, and free time to visit the Basilica, the Slipper Chapel and the Holy Door. Bring a picnic lunch. Please speak to Fr Shaun to express interest and to book a place on one of the coaches departing locally. See poster on noticeboard.

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 You can still return your envelopes. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details. Thank you for your support.