



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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## 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> 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 is today's Gospel parable really about? Mercy is clearly central to the parable. The father is lavish in his mercy. The younger son receives more mercy than he expects. The elder son is chided for thinking the mercy shown is excessive and in some way unfair on him. This could be summed up as 'Be merciful as your heavenly father is merciful.'

But Jesus is doing more than this. He is teaching about the relationship of mercy to justice, and as such showing more clearly what mercy is. The ministry of Jesus needs to be set in the context of the Old Testament, something Jesus came to fulfil.

If God is good and powerful then God simply cannot overlook evil and injustice.

God's passion for justice and his desire to overcome evil is such that in his wrath, which is his passion against sin, evil and injustice will burn up sin, wipe out injustice, and reward the just. That is what the wrath of God is. It arouses fear but also hope in those who thirst after justice.

But God's goodness also means that God is merciful. This means that God is filled with pity for what he has made, and has chosen to bind himself to us with a faithful and ongoing concern, like that of a father for a child, even a wayward child. He has made covenants with us. His mercy leads him to keep helping us in our plight. He knows our wilful sin, but also our weakness and misery beyond and alongside that. His mercy, flowing from his goodness and truth prompts him to forgive and offer grace to help us be righteous again. Forgiveness is like an act of recreation: it is a fresh start.

God gives us the ultimate fresh start. God forms another humanity, founded not on a mere created human being, but on the Eternal Son of God, who took human nature to himself. In Christ, human nature, due to the divine life at its centre and the graces flowing from this, lived a perfect life pleasing to God from its conception unto death. He did this to begin a new humanity, a new creation, shown clearly in his resurrection. Paul has explained this wonderfully in our second reading.

God has exercised mercy and forgiveness so as to make us just, able to live just lives, bringing in a just kingdom. Mercy is the means by which the goodness and wisdom of God establish justice and wipe out evil and injustice.

In the gospel both sons were surprised by the mercy of their father. We each have to choose whether we wish to remain merely part of the old humanity, riddled with sin. Or can we go to the cross, ask for mercy, and then transition to become part of the new human race founded on Christ, able in his grace to do works of justice pleasing to God, and thereby extend mercy, and through that justice, to others. Having chosen that, we have to keep choosing it, so as to root out the remnants of the old humanity, and increasingly be renewed in Christ, and in his righteousness which is both merciful and just.

*Fr Shaun*



## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Nell O'Leary RIP

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Theresa Tilbury RIP

11.30 Joan Ralfs RIP

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Stanislaus Stephen RIP

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Jane O'Brien RIP

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

19.00 Rosenna Matthews (Sick)

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Paddy Caden RIP

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Margarete Bartocha 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,** Alan Duncan, Ursula Pushpam Alfred, John Gallagher, Bill Perry.

**Pray Also For** John Rogers, Brian Morahan, Gilbert Lee, Ghandy Mangani, Celeste Robinson, Irene Smith, Margaret Turner, Maria McCullough, Donal Ryan, John Orogun, Mary Cross, Michael Carolan, Mel Stiffle, Anna Castignetti, Rowland Kenworthy, Bruno Castignetti, Breda Linnane, Edward Goulding, Bob Le Forestier, Jack Conway, Charlie O'Brien, Kathleen Hayes, Derrick Mitchell and Delores Atkins.

**Baptisms** We welcome Annie McManamon who is being baptised in our church this weekend.

**Altar Servers** 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> March **Team B** will serve.

**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, refreshments at 8.00pm. At each Mass one of the clergy will offer a reflection on Mercy.

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March at St Luke's, Pinner;

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at Our Lady & St Thomas, Harrow-on-the-Hill;

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March at St Theresa's, Headstone Lane.

**SJF Ladies Club** Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> 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. **Our next meeting is on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March after 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room.**

Contact Sherna Bhadresa at [sherna\\_bhadresa@msn.com](mailto:sherna_bhadresa@msn.com)/07785 615791. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

**Parish 100 Club Draw – February 2016 Winners are:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize – £125 Claire Finney, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £70 Agnes Wong, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £50 Veronica Too.

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

**Easter Flowers Collection** There will be a retiring collection after Mass this weekend towards the cost of the flowers in our Church.

**Eucharistic Ministers & Readers Rotas** 12<sup>th</sup> March–24<sup>th</sup> 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 – 20<sup>th</sup> 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. March 12<sup>th</sup> St George's, Pinner View; March 19<sup>th</sup> St Alban's Church, The Ridgeway. No charge, just a donation.

**Traidcraft Food Stall** will be open after all masses next weekend with samples of Fairtrade baking to taste. This is Fairtrade Fortnight so could you swap one item on your supermarket list for a Fairtrade alternative or buy one item from the church stall to help alleviate poverty through trade?

**Spring Coffee Morning - Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March** will take place after 10am and 11.30am mass in the parish centre. Refreshments and homemade cakes will be available. It is the perfect way to meet your fellow parishioners and relax for a while after mass. Raffle tickets will be on sale in the porch after every mass (£1 a strip) so please support the event by buying a ticket as all proceeds go towards reducing the parish debt on our beautiful church.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham** Join Cardinal Vincent on the pilgrimage to Walsingham, England's Nazareth, on 9<sup>th</sup> 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. Please speak to Fr Shaun to express interest and to book a place on one of the coaches departing locally. See poster on noticeboard.

**Did you attend The Sacred Heart Language College?** The school has formed an Alumni Association to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our former pupils and use your experience and skills to inspire and motivate our current pupils. There is a secure database for this purpose so if you are a former pupil or have older sisters or know a former pupil, please encourage them to sign up at <http://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/sacredheartlanguage>.



**Happy Mother's Day**



We wish all mothers a very happy and relaxing day.