



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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[www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk](http://www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk)

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## 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 ~ 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*

Jesus is the face of God's mercy. In Him the love, compassion and forgiveness of God takes its fullest human expression. To look at Jesus is to see how the Eternal Father looks on us. In the face of Jesus we see that our Father is prepared to do anything, everything, to draw us to the love for which we have been made. God's mercy is the shape taken by the love of God when it comes face to face with our broken human reality. God weeps and pours out His heart in Jesus that we may know how much He longs for us to be with Him for ever.

Jesus is the face of God's mercy. But we are to be the hands, voices and actions of that mercy in the flesh of our world today. Here we must remember again that everything we have to do and say in the name of Jesus springs not from ideas, nor from study, but from our relationship with Him. God's mercy is not an idea. It is a reality, the fullness of love offered to us in Jesus. In other words, the only way in which we truly learn about this mercy is by experiencing it in our own lives.

If mercy is to be the hallmark of all we do, it must first be the hallmark of our relationship with our blessed Lord. And this comes about when, in the deepest part of our being, we know that we stand in need of that mercy for we acknowledge that we too are broken and marked by sin. When we have received His mercy, when we have been caressed by mercy, then it flows from within our hearts and we are ready to offer it to others and find in that mercy the source of all that we do.

So what does mercy mean in practice? We know it means the works of mercy, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Think of it like this: God has created for us an ordered world in which to live. Yet it is not always experienced or seen to be so. The corporal works of mercy are the practical ways in which, day by day, we re-establish and regenerate, the mercy of God's ordered creation. When we give food to the hungry, we re-establish a proper sense of order. When we give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead we are doing the work of restoring a proper order to things, for no one should be left thirsty, naked, lost in sickness, isolated in jail, unwelcomed in their need, left abandoned and unburied in death.

When those things happen, as they do every day and on a great scale, any sense that we are living in an ordered world is rendered implausible. The corporal works of mercy, then, are the ways in which in my neighbourhood, on my street, in my community, I can help to restore that sense of place and belonging, of respect and acceptance. That sense of living in the beauty of God's created and restored order is made wonderfully present for us as we experience his saving love through the Easter Mysteries which we will celebrate shortly.



*Fr Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Breda Linnane (Anniv)

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 Peter Flanagan RIP

10.00 In Thanksgiving – Teixeira Family

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Manuel Ramos de Freitas

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Johnson Emmanuel RIP

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

**No Mass at St John Fisher – Station Mass at Our Lady & St Thomas, Harrow-on-the-Hill, details below**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland

09.30 Sheila Wheaton (Sick)

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Jane O'Brien 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.**

*(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**, Maeve Bree, Anne Casey, Patricia Forrest, Rosanna Celada, Bartholomew Wynne, Richard Cobb, Olive Brown.

**Pray Also For** Breda Linnane, Catherine Cattigan, Joan Howard, Brenda O'Hanlon, John Forde, Giuseppe Marcellini, Milly Yarwood, Frederick Sutherland, John Cahill, Norma Mesquita, Veronica Marzollini, (baby) Melissa Ferreira, Ann Devine, Eric McCarthy, Margaret McKenna, Sophie Swidzinska, Margaret Enright, Michael Wlodarczyk, Ernesto Placencia, Wijdan Marji, Jason Moore-Martin, Ted Finn, Maria Magdolna Braun, Anthony Caden, Lisa Alex and James O'Shea.

**Harry McKinney RIP** The family wishes to thank everyone for their kind prayers, cards and support which they received following the loss of Harry. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

**Easter Offering** Attached to this week's newsletter is an envelope in which you can make an Easter Offering for Fr. Shaun. These offerings support him in his ministry here in the Parish and they will be collected over the Masses of Easter. Thank you for your kindness and generosity at this time.

**Altar Servers** 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March **Team A** 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. 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.

**Spring Coffee Morning** Please join us **today** in the parish centre after 10am and 11.30am mass for refreshments and homemade cakes. It is the perfect way to meet fellow parishioners and relax for a while after mass. Raffle tickets are 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.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> St Alban's Church, The Ridgeway. No charge, just a donation.

## 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.

**Traidcraft Food Stall** is open after all masses this 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?

**SJF Young Adults Group** 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. **Next meeting is today after 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room.** Contact Sherna Bhadresa at [sherna\\_bhadresa@msn.com](mailto:sherna_bhadresa@msn.com)/07785 615791.

**Palm Crosses** Please come and help the SJF Ladies Club make crosses from the palm leaves on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30/2pm in the small hall. Please bring scissors. Tea/coffee provided. **SJF Ladies** – please note there will be no meeting on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Walk of Witness on Good Friday** The walk has been shortened a little this year. We start at St Alban's 11.30am with a reading and finish at North Harrow Methodist at 1-1.15pm for a short "service" and hot cross buns. For a detailed route, please see the noticeboard in the Church porch. All are welcome to walk either the whole or part of the route as a witness for the community to our Christian faith.

**Medjugorje Pilgrimage 30<sup>th</sup> April - 7<sup>th</sup> 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, local guide, 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 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.