



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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20th March 2016 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

'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.*

This Palm Sunday we listen to Luke's account of the Passion of Our Lord. The gospel of Luke tells us that after hearing the accusations against Jesus, but before the conclusion of the trial, Pilate sent Jesus to Herod to see what Herod would make of Jesus. Herod the Tetrarch, the political ruler of Galilee was in Jerusalem for the Passover feast. The scholars universally suggest that Herod's attendance was for political show rather than any genuine devotion.



Herod the Tetrarch had heard about Jesus, but this was their only recorded meeting. Herod had recently killed John the Baptist. Herod knew that many of John's followers now looked to Jesus. But who was Jesus, and most importantly, did Jesus threaten Herod's authority and his well-known ambition to be King of the Jews like his father? So Herod interrogated Jesus at length, asking him many questions. The chief priests and the scribes were present, egging Herod on, keeping up the pressure against Jesus, trying to force the issue. Herod also seems to have been a volatile character, with rapid mood swings. First, he seeks to work out who Jesus actually is, with perhaps genuine questions. Then, he switches and joins his bodyguards in physically abusing Jesus, mockingly clothing Jesus in an elegant royal robe, and then sends him back to Pilate for judgement. So Luke tells us most pointedly, Herod becomes friends with Pilate, no clash of jurisdiction here.

Neither Pilate nor Herod, neither the Jewish nor Roman political authorities want to condemn Jesus. They knew that Jesus was not an immediate political threat, he was not a violent rebel. Yet Herod and Pilate, both unscrupulous political operators, become friends by co-operating in the plot by the religious authorities to kill Jesus. Those who done much evil find themselves swept along, unable to defend Jesus' innocence against his enemies.

Perhaps Herod can be a counter-example for us. If we are always seeking our own advantage, in family, financial or even religious issues, then we end up only being able to think of ourselves. Integrity and mercy are values, virtues that we are then unable to live.

God allowed Herod and Pilate to act according to their corrupted nature, a nature they have chosen and embraced. So Jesus is condemned to death on the cross. God in his mercy allows this death, so that Jesus might rise, that God might have mercy on us, who believe and hoped in mercy and not short-sightedly in self-promotion and self-preservation.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 19th March (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Josephine & Reginald Benjamin RIP

Sunday 20th – **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

08.30 Maura Kugler RIP

09.30 People of the Parish

11.30 Joe Quinn RIP

Monday 21st – MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK (*SJF School attending*)

09.30 Patricia Jennings (Recovering from sickness)

Tuesday 22nd – TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP

19.00 Reception Service for Richard Cobb RIP

Wednesday 23rd – WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

11.30 Funeral of Richard Cobb RIP

No Evening Mass at St John Fisher – Station Mass at St Theresa's Headstone Lane, details below

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper

20.00 Sick & Recently Deceased of the Parish

GOOD FRIDAY

09.30 Morning Prayer

13.00 Children's Stations of the Cross

15.00 Celebration of the Lord's Passion

20.00 Stations of the Cross

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, John Campbell, Tommy Clifford, Michael Else, Des McKeown.

Pray Also For James Finn, Elizabeth Cahill, Nora Forde, Leon Casartelli, Beryl Barltrop, Sergio Carvalho, Stephen Forde, Catherine Maguire, Ellen Kiernan, Bertie Pillai, Paul Esler, Alfred Hill, Stephen D'Cruz, Noel O'Neill, Margaret Rogers, Josephine Doyle, Sabina Walsh and Charles Brown.

Please Remember Richard Cobb who has died. Reception Service on Tuesday, 22nd March at 7pm at St John Fisher. Requiem Mass on Wednesday, 23rd March at 11.30am followed by committal at Harrow Weald Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Altar Servers Holy Thursday/Good Friday/Easter Vigil – see noticeboard. If you can't make what has been allocated, please contact Kay immediately. 27th March **Team B** will serve.

Holy Week Posters Are available in the Church porch. Please take one to display in your home.

Chrism Mass Takes place at Westminster Cathedral at 12 Noon on Tuesday, 22nd March. Please keep the priests of the Diocese in your prayers on this day.

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. On Wednesday, 23rd March at St Theresa's, Headstone Lane.

Collection Please remember that on Good Friday we will be taking a collection for the charities that we are asked to support throughout the year.

SJF Ladies Club We are meeting on Wednesday, 30th March after 7pm Mass in the Fisher Room for a film night "Suffragette". All welcome, charge £1.

Easter Offering In the porch you will find Easter Offering envelopes 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.

Planned Giving 2016/17 Planned Giving envelopes are available in the Church porch in **alphabetical order**. **Please collect your named box of envelopes as soon as possible but do not use them until Sunday, 10th April 2016.**

Text Giving Our parish is now making available a new way to 'top up' your offerings or to make special gifts. By using your mobile telephone, you can now text £5 as an offering to help support the running costs, ministries and programmes, or the cost of maintenance and repairs to our buildings. Simply text "**Parish JOHNF**" to this number: **70800**. Please see flyer in the porch.

St John Fisher Social Club At the last AGM, Steve Pal announced his decision to stand down as Chair of the committee after eight years in the position. Following the Social Club's last committee meeting held 25th February, I was elected to replace him. I would like to thank Steve for his excellent work during his tenure in playing a vital role in growing the Social Club. Going forward, I hope that we can continue to build on this work. Should you have any comments or suggestions regarding the Social Club, please contact me at jeromeleforestier@gmail.com.

Jérôme Le Forestier

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, discuss and grow in their faith, as well as socialise. Everyone welcome. We meet on the first Sunday of the month in the Fisher Room after the 11.30am Mass. **Please note that the date for the next meeting has changed and is now Sunday, 10th April.**

Contact Johnpromise promisemagnus@yahoo.com or Sherna Bhadresa sherna_bhadresa@msn.com/07785 615791.

St John Fisher Social Club is hosting a Concert with an Irish theme in the church hall beginning at 8.00pm on Saturday, 30th April with all proceeds to parish funds. It promises to be great fun so please come along and support us. Tickets are £8 each (£6 concessions) and will be available after most masses from Easter Sunday onwards.

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 porch. All are welcome to walk either the whole or part of the route.

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. The cost is £35 per person, cheques payable to St John Fisher Church. If you would like to book a place on a coach departing from St John Fisher Church, you will find a sign-up sheet and timetable in the porch.

Easter Flower Collection £457.88 was raised. Thank you very much.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day Thank you for your generous response - £2,039.96 was donated.