



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Middleton, 020 8429 5684, shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk
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Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh, 020 8429 5681, claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk

8th May 2016 ~ The Ascension of the Lord

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.*

In describing the Ascension, St Luke recounts that the apostles were left amazed staring into heaven, and they had to be told by the two men in white 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

We should remember that at his Transfiguration Jesus spoke with Moses and Elijah about His departure, this departure was fully realised at His Ascension. But, it was not a departure

that left His disciples abandoned. In fact, the Greek word St Luke uses for departure in his account of the Transfiguration is the word Exodus. Thus, St Luke wants us to understand the Ascension in the light of the Exodus story. Jesus' departure is about leading His people into freedom, into the promised land.

Jesus' departure was difficult for the apostles to accept, but their experience of the Transfiguration and the Ascension helped them to grow up in spiritual maturity so that they could witness to the power of God's redeeming works. The Transfiguration gave the apostles the courage to accompany Jesus to Jerusalem where they would witness His terrible suffering and death on the Cross, and the Ascension prepared the apostles for Pentecost, that defining moment when the Holy Spirit inspired the apostles to go out into the streets and give witness to the glory of Christ's death and resurrection.

It was at the Ascension, that the apostles came to realise that Jesus Christ had been exalted to the heights of heaven, and although it's difficult to express what it must have been like to come to this realisation, the point is not to dwell on exactly what the apostles experienced, but to dwell on what was promised. The promise of the Ascension is that since Christ has been exalted to the heights of heaven, we too can share in this exultation. When Jesus' disciples witnessed His Transfiguration, they didn't leave rejoicing because as yet they weren't at all ready to share in the glory that they had witnessed. But after the Ascension, the disciples did leave rejoicing, because it was only then that they began to realise that what had happened to Jesus was going to happen to them. Thus, our hope in our celebration of the Ascension, is that we too will be raised up with Christ and be glorified with Him, and this is certainly a cause for great rejoicing.



Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 7th May 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 8th May – **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

08.30 Sinnathamby Joseph Victor (Anniv)

10.00 Noel Dunne RIP

11.30 Annapackiam Albert (Anniv)

Monday 9th – Easter feria, Seventh Week of Easter

09.30 Olive Brown RIP

Tuesday 10th – Easter feria

09.30 Richard Cobb RIP

Wednesday 11th – Easter feria

19.00 Johnson Fernandez RIP

Thursday 12th – Easter feria

09.30 Bartholomew Wynne RIP

Friday 13th – Easter feria

09.30 Margaret & John Gallagher 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, Francisco D’Cruz, Gerald Roan, Maureen Saunders, Tommy Rolt, Peter Hynes, Celina Paul.

Pray Also For Sinnathamby Joseph Victor, Annapackiam Albert, Sheila Watts, Austin Ormson, Elizabeth Tumulty, Mary & Eddy Moriarty, Gerard Taylor, Mary Anne Thambiratnam, Nelly Ougan, Angela Cawley, Brian Tunnacliffe, Germain Tse Kwong Pin, Angela Castagna and Jim Morawski.

Kathleen Middleton RIP Fr Shaun and his family would like to thank everyone for their support and messages of condolence. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions

Altar Servers 14th/15th May **Team A** will serve.

Saturday Classes Next meeting on 14th May 2016 in the Fisher room.

Applications for Confirmation 2017 A meeting will be held on Monday, 23rd May at 5.30pm in the Parish Centre. The candidates must attend themselves and need to be in school year 8 or above. The meeting will last for 1 hour where information will be given for the coming year. Anyone wishing to be confirmed in 2017 will need to attend this meeting.

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 socialize. Everyone welcome. **We meet on the first Sunday of the month in the Fisher Room after the 11.30am Mass.** Contact Johnpromise promisemagnus@yahoo.com or Sherna Bhadresa sherna_bhadresa@msn.com/07785 615791.

Parish 100 Club Draw – April 2016 Winners are: 1st prize – £125 Barbara Mather, 2nd prize - £70 Samuel Alexander, 3rd prize - £50 John Brennan.

Eucharistic Ministers urgently required to volunteer for an occasional Eucharistic Adoration rota duty (every 3/4+ months?). Adoration generally takes place on 1st Fridays after 9.30am Mass at 10-11am. The Minister's duty at 11am is to lead parishioners in the Divine Praises after which the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the monstrance and replaced in the tabernacle. Please contact either John Cunningham (07929 191262 or 020 8863 6659) or notify Parish Secretary, Claudia McHugh.

First Holy Communion Please keep in your prayers the second and third group of children who are receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this weekend.

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.

Church Cleaning To keep our lovely church looking good we are looking to recruit a couple of people to join the cleaning team that meets at 10.00am, once every four weeks, on a Thursday. The cleaning includes sweeping, dusting and hoovering and will take about 1.1/2 hours. Please contact Claudia McHugh on 020 8429 5681 or claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk.

Flower Arranging We are looking for volunteers to train to arrange our flowers in the Church. Full training will be given by Ann French who taught flower arranging for many years in Hillingdon. If you are interested and think you can help, please contact Ann on 020 8868 5163. I’m sure you will all agree flowers make the architecture of the Church come to life.

Harrow Support Group for separated & divorced Catholics The next meeting of the Harrow Support Group will be on Monday, 9th May at 8pm in St Bernard’s Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics, whatever their situation, are welcome. For further information please contact Jill 0208 204 3714 or Eileen 0208 756 1284.

Spirit in the City (1st - 4th June 2016) Catholic festival of Mercy in the West End of London. Join the programme of prayer, talks, celebrations in Notre Dame de France and the all day festival in Leicester Square gardens on Saturday. For details visit: www.spiritinthecity.org or T: 020 7440 2663 Full programme: www.bit.ly/SitCfest2016.

Summer Accommodation in London Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in central London in July and August. Beautiful gardens and chapel. Rooms from £50 per night (including breakfast). Visit www.allenhall.org.uk or email allenhall@rcdow.org.uk, Tel 020 7349 5600 (option 0).

‘The Bridge’ I have great joy to tell you that ‘The Bridge’, a mental health service in Harrow, will not be closed. Thank you so much for signing the petition. It was worthwhile. *Christine*

Getting Married Please remember that it is a requirement of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales that at least six months notice be given if you intend to get married. We need this time to process the paperwork and to ensure that you can have access to Marriage Preparation.

Leaving the Parish or Change of Address? Please advise Claudia McHugh on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 020 8429 5681 so we may amend our records. Thank you.

New to the Parish? Please make yourself known after Mass to either Fr Shaun or Kay O’Connor so you may be registered and provided with all the relevant information. A welcome pack is available from the wall rack in the Church porch.