



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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11th September 2016 ~ Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the 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.*

Every three years, the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son are read in the church. In the parable of the prodigal son there is a curious which says, 'he came to his senses', the literal translation from the Greek would be 'he entered into himself.'

To understand this phrase, it helps to take all three parables together, as they should be. All three parables are about finding. The prodigal son was lost



and found, just as the sheep and the coin were. The first two say, what man or what woman would not do this? The two parables prepare for the great parable of the Prodigal Son, which does not begin by saying, 'What Father would not do this?' because it is by no means obvious that any father would take the son back in these circumstances. This is how the parables shine light on each other. There are similarities and there are contrasts. The prodigal son, is a bit like the shepherd, in his going out looking for something, in the far country. He is a bit like the woman in his taking money with him. He loses the money and he does not find whatever he was looking for. Then he enters into himself.

If all three are about losing and finding, losing a human being, is quite different from losing a sheep or a coin. It is not that we care more about things than human beings, but losing a human being is a different kind of loss. The prodigal son chooses to be lost. He also chooses to come back. He does not expect to be found again. Taking back someone who has hurt us, can seem a bit like losing ourselves. We have to enter into ourselves to find out who we are. Yet the strange paradox of interiority is that it is there, that we find true community. All three parables end with a party. The man and the woman are in fact separated by their external preoccupations. The man endlessly searching for his sheep, the woman for her coin. It is only when they find what they want, that they are able to call in their friends and neighbours to rejoice with them.

The prodigal son enters into himself and remembers his father. The elder son refuses to enter in, the same phrase as used of his brother. You might think it is the house, or the celebration he won't enter, but it is really himself. Interiority does not separate us from others but unites us. The father explains to the elder son, that he is with him always. 'All that is mine is yours'. If we pray, we discover the truth of that. He is with us; we have all that we need. We possess what he possesses.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 10th September 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Eileen Carey (Anniv)

Sunday 11th – 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 John Prendeville (Anniv)

11.30 Celine Marie Arulanantham (Anniv)

Monday 12th – Feria, Twenty-Fourth Week of Year 2

09.30 In Thanksgiving – Hilary & Rita D’Cruz (62nd Wedd Anniv)

Tuesday 13th – St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor

09.30 Rodney Chalaby

Wednesday 14th – THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

19.00 Stephen Jordan RIP

Thursday 15th – Our Lady of Sorrows

09.30 Michael Bugg RIP

Friday 16th – Sts Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

09.30 Bridie Fitzgerald 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, Christine Somerville, Tom Morris, Lawrence Graham-Leigh, Mary Glenc.

Pray Also For Eileen Carey, John Prendeville, Celine Marie Arulanantham, Joan Salisbury, Bridie Lagrue, Pearl Bryant, Patrick Cunningham, Dennis McHugh, John Furlong, Betty Trundle, Monty Moriarty, Alma Houghton, Gerry Furnell, Kitty Young, Philomena Dias, Georgina Wilson, Molly McCann, Jean Casey, Francis Kerr, Ann Maybury, Mavis Pereira and Elmo Joseph.

Altar Servers 17th/18th September **Team A** will serve.

Parish Workshop – Love in Action On **Saturday 17th September at 10.30am** in the Parish Centre. The workshop will be facilitated by Caritas Westminster.

Parish Council meets Monday, 12th September at 7.30pm in the Fisher Room.

Theology on Tap I wanted to tell you of an initiative that I am starting here in North Harrow. It's called Theology on Tap. We will meet in the parish bar on the third Wednesday of each month. There will be some input and then there will be a discussion on a given topic over a drink and sarnies. The idea is to provide a forum for adults who just want to explore the faith and do a bit of theology in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. We intend to have our first meeting on Wednesday, 19th Oct at 7.30pm. Then we will try to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. I am grateful to Peter Keenan who previously taught at St Dominic's and who will help to animate the evening.

Fr. Shaun

Walsingham Appeal - Rebuilding England's Nazareth On the 24th September we shall be celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, and on this weekend the Bishops have asked all parishes to have a second collection to help in the developments of England's National Shrine to Our Lady. We are looking to upgrade existing buildings and build new facilities, to help us serve the increasing numbers of pilgrims, who continue to walk in the Walsingham Way, since the shrine was established in 1061. Our aims are to update our facilities, and to make provision for sick and disabled pilgrims and to have facilities for young people to come on pilgrimage. For full details, please visit www.walsingham.org.uk. Thank you for your generosity.

Mgr. John Armitage Rector

SJF Young Adults Group This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together. Everyone is welcome. **We meet on the first Sunday of the month in the Fisher Room after the 11.30am Mass.** Our next meeting is on **2nd October**. Contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

Fairtrade stall and Justice Matters petition Fairtrade food is on sale in the porch after all masses this weekend. **Please stop and sign a petition at the stall.** Justice Matters is calling for a change in the law so that large UK companies can be prosecuted if they cause serious harm to people abroad. Examples Traidcraft workers have witnessed include acid fumes from a UK owned copper smelting plant in Zambia seriously damaging the health & crops of very poor people. For more information go to <http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/about-the-justice-campaign>.

Eucharistic Ministers & Readers Rotas 17th Sept to 30th Oct are ready for collection from the relevant pigeon holes in the porch.

Bethany Group The next meeting for members will be on Monday, 12th September at 7.30pm.

SJF Ladies Club Meeting on Wednesday, 14th September after 7pm Mass in the Fisher Room for a film night "Eddie the Eagle". All welcome, tea & biscuits provided, charge £1.

Singalong Concert on Saturday, 8th October at 7.30pm in the Church hall. Ticket £5 - including tea/coffee & cake. Come & join us for a fun musical evening! Tickets will be on sale after all Masses for the next 2 weekends.

Quiet Day On Saturday, 1st October at 10am-4pm at All Saints, Harrow Weald. This day has been arranged by Churches Together. It is a day to feel comfortable and relaxed, to find a spot to walk, or sit, and enjoy being with God. Our faith invites us to engage with the world, show compassion, prepare ourselves for service and exercise responsible stewardship of our world. Our valuable activities can squeeze out prayer and reflection. As we approach the final months of our Year of Mercy, this could provide a good opportunity to consider our aims. More details and enrolment forms are available in the porch rack.

Parish Women's Group - Book Evening Chosen book to read is 'The Watercress Girls' by Kay Seeley. This is a mystery novel set in Victorian times. Available from Amazon or good bookshops. Kay Seeley, the author, will be present for the evening to read from the novel and answer questions. This will be on **Thursday, October 13th at 8pm** in the small hall. Further info nearer the time or contact Barbara Towell 020 8866 6665.

The Sacred Heart Language College (Wealdstone) - Open Evenings On Wednesday, 14 September 6.30-8.30pm and Thursday, 22 September at 4pm-6pm. See poster in porch.

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, London – Open Evenings For Year 7 on Thursday, 22 & Tuesday 27 September at 4.30, 5.30 or 6.30pm, for 6th Form on Thursday, 6 & Tuesday 18 October at 5.30pm. See poster in porch.

Gunnersbury Catholic School – Open Days Wednesday, 21 September 2pm–3.30pm, 6pm–8pm; Wednesday, 28 September 2pm–3.30pm; Thursday, 6 October 9.30am–10.30am (by appointment only).

St Gregory's Catholic Science College, Kenton – Open Evening On Thursday, 15 September 2016 from 3pm.

St. Dominic's Sixth Form College, Harrow-on-the-Hill – Open Day On Saturday, 8 October 2016 at 9.30am-3.00pm with Principal's talk each hour.