



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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9th October 2016 ~ Twenty-Eighth 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.*

Today's Old Testament reading and Gospel are about lepers. Lepers, not leprosy, since both readings are about people, not the characteristics which threaten to define them. The first reading about Naaman the leper is a fascinating character study. In the Gospel Our Lord meets ten lepers walking in the middle ground between Samaria and Galilee.

The Greek word is middle, not border as the Jerusalem Bible has it. That's where the lepers would find themselves, outcast from both the Samaritans and the Jews of Galilee. We are not told how many of them are Samaritans, but as outcasts, they are forced to live

together, outside of their own lands. Could it be that the one leper who comes back to give thanks to Jesus, may also be thanking him for something else?

Understanding that this man Jesus was more than a healer, that somehow he had always been in charge of his life. He realised that the days when the Samaritans and Jews cared for each other, fellow outcasts, but people who had been forced to overcome the bitterness that divided the Samaritans and Galileans, were themselves a kind of blessing.

Now for Naaman the leper, healed of his leprosy in the waters of the Jordan, through the prophet Elisha. In the full account, well worth reading, Naaman is described as a mighty warrior, though he was a leper, in most translations. There is no word for 'though' in the Hebrew. Perhaps he was a mighty warrior because he was a leper. His leprosy cut him off from human connections, so he had given himself over to the will of another, the king of Aram, because nothing mattered to him in his own life. Despair can sometimes cause us to throw ourselves into meaningless activity.

Naaman had come to Israel because of the suggestion of the slave girl of Naaman's wife. This little girl was taken prisoner by the Arameans, and was now a slave, yet she shows compassion for this master, whom she had no reason to care about. Naaman is allowed to go to Israel by the king of Aram. You get the impression that Naaman, for all that he was a warlord, was someone who inspired a lot of love.

Naaman has to struggle to be cured. The king of Israel, seeing the letter from the King of Aram, thinks it is a diplomatic trap. Naaman himself does not trust Elisha's instruction to wash in the waters of Jordan. Yet he does so, and is cured. His flesh becomes like a little child, but the Hebrew words used here, are the same words as those used to describe the little slave girl. She is the real hero of the story. Naaman is cured in his flesh, but now he has gained something of the pure unselfish love of the little slave. I doubt she stayed a slave for long.

Fr Shaun.



Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 8th October 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Noreen Simpson RIP

Sunday 9th – 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Carmina Fernandes RIP

10.00 In Thanksgiving - Heena & Hansa

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 10th – Feria, Twenty-Eighth Week of Year 2

09.30 Donal Ryan RIP

Tuesday 11th – Feria

09.30 Joseph Yim (25th Anniv)

Wednesday 12th – Feria

19.00 Monica O'Sullivan (Anniv)

Thursday 13th – ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, Patron of the Diocese

09.30 Don Lucaas

Friday 14th – Feria

09.30 Hope Garthwaite RIP

19.30 Monica O'Sullivan 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 ring either Katherine on 020 8868 8512 or Tony on 020 8868 3205.)

Recently Deceased, Christine Roglic, Sr Amadeus Bulger CJ, Bernard Bleach, Mgr Jack Kennedy.

Pray Also For Edith Steinitz, Joseph McGeoghan, George Mahon, Louisa Tydda, Bryan Cross, Gwladys Smith, Phyllis Berry, Brigitte Ryan, Tony Crick, Pauline Roa, Mary Smith and Marguerite Atkinson.

Love in Action Since last summer we have been working towards trying to see how our parish can start to take a more active part in the Church's work of social justice. Having completed the catechetical sessions on the various themes of Love in Action, promoted a Parish Exhibition of the work that we already do and met together to explore more fully the concept of what Social Justice actually means, we now come to the final stage of LiA which involves putting together a plan or strategy for our parish. Please do come along to this planning meeting which will take place in the **Small Hall on Wednesday, 12th October at 7.30pm.**

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. A full list of discussion topics for this year can be found on the noticeboard in the porch.

Fr. Shaun

Annual Parish Meeting To be held on Monday, 28th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Items for the Agenda should be notified, in writing, to the Chairman c/o the Parish House, by 14th November at the latest.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School - Admission to Reception September 2017 The application process is now open for children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013. We are holding two Saturday morning talks/tours on 22nd October and 19th November at 10:00. There are also tours available on

Wednesday mornings, 19th October and 16th November at 09:30. Please contact the school office to book your tour (020 8868 2961). Further info at <http://www.stjohnfisherschool.co.uk>.

Parish 100 Club Draw – September 2016 Winners: 1st prize Diana Mendonca £125, 2nd prize Jonathan Barker £70, 3rd prize Christina Mantle £50.

The Pylon - Christmas edition 2016 The Pylon is your magazine, so please would you let us have: information/news from your parish group, articles, holiday or book recommendations, original poems or short stories, Christmas recipes, articles. We welcome items from children and the youth of the parish. **Please email to barbaratowell@sky.com or place in the appropriate pigeonhole.** **Deadline for submissions: Sunday, November 20th.** From now on The Pylon will be an online magazine; however, hard/paper copies will be available on request.

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 6th November. Contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com. Facebook 'SJF Young Adults'.

Mass for the Bereaved Each year in November we celebrate a Mass for those who have been bereaved. This will be held on the Feast of All Souls, on Wednesday, 2nd November at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Fisher Room.

Welcome Ministry Rota Please collect your new rotas from the porch and/or see our website.

The Fairtrade Food stall is open in the porch after all masses this weekend.

CAFOD Christmas cards & Traidcraft catalogues Next weekend the full 2016 CAFOD Christmas card range will be on display in the porch. So that people attending the later masses on Sunday can see the whole range nothing will be sold but orders will be taken and catalogues can be picked up to browse at home. Cards will be on sale every weekend from 15th October. If you would like to volunteer to help occasionally on the stall, please leave your name and contact details at the Fairtrade food stall in the porch or email sjftraidcraft@gmail.com.

Book Evening - Thursday, 13th October at 8pm in the St John Fisher Parish Centre's small hall, cost £1. The Parish Women's Group invites you to discuss the novel 'The Watercress Girls' by Kay Seeley. The author will be joining us and will read from her book as well as answering questions about the novel and her successful writing career. Voluntary contributions of a bottle to share or snacks would be most welcome. Do come along even if you have not read the book as it will be an interesting evening anyway. For further info contact barbaratowell@sky.com.

St John Fisher School Harvest Festival We are delighted to invite senior parishioners to our Harvest Assembly followed by refreshments on Tuesday, 11th October at 10.00am in the school hall. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Charity 'Vintage Tea Party' – In aid of Harrow Gateway & Harrow Olympics On Friday 14th October 2016 at 2.30pm – 5.00pm @ The North Harrow Home Guard Club, North Harrow car park. Tea, cakes, tombola, raffle, & book stall.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 7th October Please return your envelopes today. Thank you for your support. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.