



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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## 23rd October 2016 ~ Thirtieth 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...**

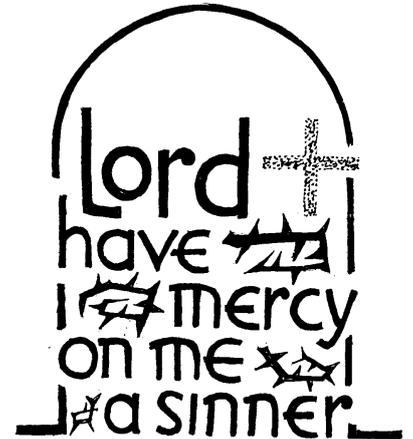
To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
To Gather the Community and Tell the Story  
To Sing and Make Music to the Lord  
To Break the Bread and Share the Cup

### **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

One of the greatly respected and beloved Fathers of the Desert was known as Abba Bessarion. He lived among the monks of Egypt in the great heyday of monasticism in the desert. One day he was seated in church with his fellow monks, composing themselves to take part in the Divine Liturgy. There was a sudden commotion. The priest of the church had heard (probably from another monk) that one of the brothers was a sinner, and the cleric took it upon himself to eject the man from church. Abba Bessarion got up and was heard to say (in a loud stage whisper - I like to think): "I too am a sinner", and he also left the church. On another occasion, a young monk asked Bessarion how to live in community: "Keep silence and do not compare yourself to others."

Abba Bessarion comes to mind when reading today's parable. The pharisee behaves in the opposite way to Bessarion, he precisely does compare himself to others, and is very pleased with himself that he is not a sinner, and is pleased to inform God of all this in many words. The tax collector cannot even bring himself to look at others, nor up to heaven, and simply repeats the mumbled phrase: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."



The key phrase is that the Pharisee addresses the prayer "to himself", not to God. His monologue is entirely self-referential. His pride is so colossal it spoils the genuinely good acts he enumerates. As the first reading points out, humility is the key to genuine prayer, the humble man's prayer "pierces the clouds."

Prayer, in order to be genuine, should have a number of characteristics, says St Thomas. It should be devout, full of faith, hope, and humility, also persevering. The Pharisees' prayer is full of devotion to himself, and faith in his own works. Certainly he has faith in God, but his pride kills it stone dead. In the Gospel last week, we had an example of perseverance in the endlessly nagging widow. Next week, we have an example of hope in Zacchaeus, who climbs the tree to wait in joyful hope. This week, the tax collector embodies humility. Humility, if it is genuine, is not a melodramatic, self-regarding abjection; it is an unflinching look at the reality of oneself in the light of God and others. Such an exercise reveals both our strengths and weaknesses. For our strengths we give thanks to God, and for our weaknesses we ask for forgiveness, and the grace to overcome them. So between the two men the tax collector is the realist, and the Pharisee the fantasist. His fantasy is all the more dangerous because it is rooted in the truth. He does, on paper, live out the moral life. But his narcissism prevents him being aware of God's grace, and the weaknesses he undoubtedly has.

*Fr Shaun*

*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.*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 (First Mass of Sunday)  
18.00 In Thanksgiving – Adrian Arulanantham (21<sup>st</sup> Birthday)  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
08.30 People of the Parish  
10.00 Gabriel Faria (Anniv)  
11.30 In Thanksgiving – Victor & Kaajal Marquis (20<sup>th</sup> Wedd Anniv)  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Feria, Thirtieth Week of Year 2  
09.30 Frank Clemens RIP  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
09.30 Maureen Smith (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday)  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
**11.00 Requiem Mass for Benny Hoft RIP**  
19.00 Helen Amos RIP  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> – Feria  
09.30 Neil Doherty RIP  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – STS SIMON and JUDE, Apostles  
09.30 Chris Caldwell (Anniv)  
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**, Mary Keating, Benny Hoft.

**Pray Also For** Gabriel Faria, Chris Caldwell, Hannah Barnard, Rose Wright, Martin Flanagan, Donald Haynes, Soad Raie, Gerald Taylor, Maureen Walsh, Michael McCrohan, Alice Taylor, Johanna Evans, Dennis Joiner, Helen Muscillo, Philomena Seymour, Kathleen Kane, Frederick Goddard, Joan Ralfs, Kathleen Foran, Esmé Phaire, Michael Rooney and Maura Sheehan.

**Please Remember** Benny Hoft who has died. Requiem Mass on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October at 11am at St John Fisher followed by interment at Northwood Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

**Funeral of Cathryn Parker (nee Bowker) RIP** On Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 1.00pm at St Wilfrids RC Church, Station Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9EN, followed by interment at Clayton Wood Natural Burial Ground, Brighton Road, Clayton BN6 9PD. Reception to be held in the Church hall, all welcome. If you wish to send flowers, please note only biodegradable materials may be used. Donations in Cathryn's memory can be made to St Peter and St James Hospice, N Common Road, Lewes, West Sussex BN8 4ED. If you would like to share any memories or anecdotes about Cathryn, please email Paula [paulasmith22@sky.com](mailto:paulasmith22@sky.com) or Colette [col.holmes240@ntlworld.com](mailto:col.holmes240@ntlworld.com).  
**Return Coach from St John Fisher to St Wilfrids** – if you would like to book a place, contact Deirdre Deely 07907 798412 by Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October at the latest. The cost is approx. £16-20 dependent on numbers.

**Annual Parish Meeting** To be held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> November at the latest. All those who submit items must be prepared to introduce them at the meeting.

**School Admission** Fr. Shaun will sign school forms for PRIMARY & 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM COLLEGE on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10am-12pm in the Fisher Room. For an appointment, please contact Claudia McHugh [claudiamcugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamcugh@rcdow.org.uk) / 8429 5681 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm). **Please note that candidates who apply for 6<sup>th</sup> FORM should attend – not parents.** *If you have an earlier deadline for 6<sup>th</sup> form applications in West London, please contact Claudia for an earlier appointment.* **The Certificate of Catholic**

**Practice** must now be completed for all applications to schools that use 'practising Catholic' as a criterion for admission. Please note that the current version has the copyright symbol at the bottom.

<http://rcdow.org.uk/att/files/education/admissions/certificate%20of%20catholic%20practice%202015.pdf>

The certificate is only available from the Church, parents should obtain it either from their priest or from the diocesan website.

**Church Cleaning Rota** The 2017 Cleaning Rota is being prepared. If you are a current cleaner but no longer able to continue or if you would like to join the team (a couple of hours every 4 weeks), please contact Alison Jackson 8427 2910.

**CAFOD Christmas cards & Fair Trade Advent calendars** are on sale (or can be ordered) after all masses this weekend. Please borrow a Traidcraft catalogue from the stall to browse at home for gifts & share with friends.

**Parish Women's Group - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm** Our next meeting in the small hall will be a paper craft evening. We shall be turning paperbacks into paper hedgehogs or magazines into Christmas trees. Please reserve your place by emailing [elena.johnston@btinternet.com](mailto:elena.johnston@btinternet.com) by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November at the latest. The cost is £2.50 plus you will need to bring a paperback book of at least 50 pages in length. The PWG is open to all women in the parish so why not unleash your creativity and come along?

**Autumn Concert** St John Fisher Social Club are proud to present a Concert with an 'Irish theme', to be held in the Church Hall on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November @7.45pm till late! The evening will include a variety of musical acts. Tickets are £5 and will be available after most weekend masses or from John Durcan 07939 588019/[durcanjohn@aol.com](mailto:durcanjohn@aol.com). All proceeds go to parish funds.

**Closure of Holy Door of Mercy at St. William of York, Stanmore** The Holy Door will be closing today at 4pm with a Liturgy of the Word and a catechesis. All are welcome.

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Fisher Room.

**Blessing of the Graves** Mass will be celebrated in the Cemetery Chapel at 11am at Pinner New Cemetery on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November. This will be followed by the blessing of the graves.

**Knitting Group** Next meeting on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in the Fisher Room - knitting crochet and sewing - come for a social get together and help Bakita House.

**SJF Ladies Club Meeting** on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October after 7pm Mass in the small hall for a Bingo Night and Fish & Chips. Charge £6. Please let Teresa know if you are attending [t.arrigo@virgin.net](mailto:t.arrigo@virgin.net) / 020 8427 3063.

**Christmas Coffee Morning - December 11<sup>th</sup> after 10am & 11.30am Mass** We will have a craft table this year, so please get busy all you crafters, as all contributions are very welcome which can be dropped off at the Parish office.

**Bottle tops for London Air Ambulance** The rules have changed with regards to collecting plastic bottle tops, so thank you to all of you who contributed in the past, however, we will **NO LONGER BE COLLECTING THESE**. So, **please do not leave them in the porch or in the utility room** in future. Thank you.