



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531

www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Middleton, 020 8429 5684, shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Catechist: Kay O'Connor, 020 8429 5682, kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh, 020 8429 5681, claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk (Mon-Wed-Fri 9.30am-1.30pm)

29th January 2017 ~ Fourth Sunday of the Year A

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

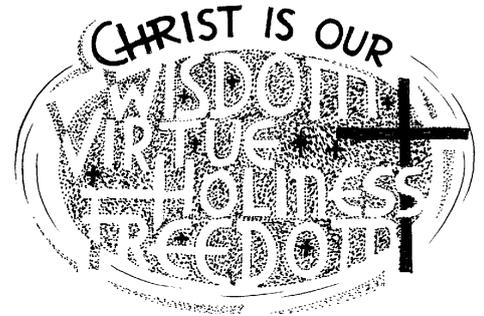
We Seek...

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

In the beatitudes does Our Lord announce a series of disparate rewards for disparate characters? One thing for gentlefolk; another thing for mourners; for those moved at the plight of the oppressed; for the innocent of heart; and so on. Or does Jesus pronounce God's one blessing, not on this or that group of people, but on His one people, His Church, as they remain faithful to His calling and mission? Christian humility will be a life that is marked by mercy rather than retribution, endurance even under persecution, gentleness, and the resolute search for peace and justice made possible by innocence of heart.



What Jesus teaches in the beatitudes is in fact the way of life that He Himself already lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. We shall understand how that power enables a certain kind of poverty when we reflect on the Divine Pity that took on flesh and suffered for love of sinners. This is the humility that thinks no discomfort, no hard truth, too high a price for the dignity of others. Humility gets its hands dirty, gets down on hands and knees if need be, so that others can stand tall. This is the humility of the prophet, the healer, the man or woman of persistent prayer.

This episode in Gospels recalls how the hidden God once spoke to Moses from the cloud over Mount Sinai. God then gave Moses the commandments, a way of life and freedom for Israel. What we have here isn't a replacement for that way of life. Jesus tells us, rather, what that life costs in an evil world, and so how God blesses us for our fidelity to that way of life. In this sense, it looks forward to the cross and to the resurrection of Christ. The beatitudes assure us that as we share in His Passion, so shall we also share in His resurrection to eternal life.

It's surely best, then, not to translate these beatitudes by 'Happy are'. Those who are cursed and persecuted are rarely happy about it and if they really enjoyed it, would you want to share eternity with them? Those who mourn cannot be happy now by definition. Let's not gloss over the hardship to be endured by virtue of God's present blessing. Indeed, it is precisely God's blessing that is the well-spring of our hope.

The Church Fathers saw a kind of progression within the beatitudes. They saw them as building one on another. It takes a certain foundational humility to accept the message of Gospel, its warning that sin brings death, of our urgent need for salvation. And there is no conversion of life that does not entail sadness, sorrow for sin and the pain of detachment. From these come that gentleness which remembers our own moral weakness as we serve others in the Christian life. We cannot secure the peace which results from a just order and friendship if our hearts are skewed by injustice, distracted by selfish ambitions careless and destructive of the common good. The different virtues combine to form a unity of purpose and they give us the strength to face those difficult moments that is a part of every human story.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 28th January 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 George Standon

Sunday 29th – 4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Ryan, Crick & Cornally Families RIP

11.30 Wojciech Mlek, Eugenia & Jozef Sulikowski & Family RIP

Monday 30th – Feria

09.30 Mary Connolly

Tuesday 31st – St John Bosco, Priest

09.30 Margarete Bartocha (Anniv), Jan Bartocha RIP

Wednesday 1st February – Feria

19.00 Albert & Louiza Fernandes, Dominic Fernandes, Lucy & Julia Fernandes RIP

Thursday 2nd – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

09.30 Helen Wiggins RIP & Gallagher Family

Friday 3rd – Sts Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury

09.30 Una Tobin (Sick)

10.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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, Frank Avery, Elsie Lysaght, Paula Kelly, June Smith, Zygfryd Wypchol.

Pray Also For Margarete Bartocha, Jim Gallagher, Tony Daly, Winifred Bushell, Kathleen O'Malley, Kitty Edwards, Hazel Wight, Tess O'Reilly, Thelma Renner, Wyn O'Hagen, May Connick, Kathleen Coyle, Marian Wrzyszc, Barbara Riseley, Eileen Reilly, Judith Rohini Christie, Doris Jones, Daniel Lynch, Catherine Dias, Marguerite Rogers, Mabel Morgan, Jack Hurst and Stan Phillips whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Our Weekly Newsletter is now sent out by email. If you have not given us your email details then please subscribe by following this link <http://eepurl.com/coXHxD>.

Theology on Tap – “The Imitation Game”: A Movie about Morality? How do we decide what morality is and how do we make “moral decisions”? What informs our consciences and indeed what is conscience? We will think about all these issues at our next Theology on Tap which will take place on Wednesday, 15th February 2017 at 7.30pm in the Social Club.

Bishop's Visitation Our area bishop John Sherrington will make a visitation to the parish on the weekend of 25th/26th February 2017.

Mary's Meals Save all your old clothes and bedding (*no duvets or pillows please*) because **next weekend (4th/5th February)** representatives from Mary's Meals will be here for their annual collection. Put clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity will be here to pick them up until 11.30am Mass. Please do not bring clothes before this date as we have nowhere to store them.

St John Fisher Social Club Membership subscriptions for 2017 are now due and can be renewed during club opening hours. Our AGM is on Sunday, 5th February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

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

Knights of St. Columba Next meeting on Thursday, 2nd February 2017 at 8pm in the Social Club.

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 after the 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room. Our next meeting is **next Sunday**. Contact Johnpromise at promisemagnus@yahoo.com.

St. John Fisher Women's Group invites you to a talk by Mary Evans about her trip to India on Thursday, 9th February at 8pm in the small hall/ Fisher Room of the Parish Centre. Cost £1. A voluntary contribution of a bottle or Indian finger food/snacks to share would be gratefully appreciated. For further details contact barbaratowell@sky.com.

Parish Pilgrimage to Poland No other Polish city comes close to matching Krakow for its sheer wealth of religious, architectural and artistic treasures. We will visit Krakow between Thursday 1st and Tuesday 6th June 2017. Our tour will include a visit to Wadowice the birth place of Pope John Paul, Krakow Cathedral where Pope John Paul presided as Archbishop before his election to the papacy. We will see Wawel Castle, the seat of Polish Royalty for over 500 years and we will stroll through the winding streets of Krakow's Old Town, with its soaring Gothic churches and medieval town square - the largest in Europe. We intend to go to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we can wander through labyrinthine tunnels and marvel at an ornamented underground temple built entirely of salt. We will visit Auschwitz, scene of so much suffering and persecution. We will also make our way to Our Lady's shrine at Czestochowa, home of the monastery of Jasna Gora where the famous image of the Black Madonna is kept. Our pilgrimage will cost £799 for a half board stay at the centrally located Hotel Classic and all our guided trips. Pax Travel will organise the pilgrimage. Expressions of interest should be sent to Fr. Shaun, you can do this by email harrownorth@rcdow.org.uk or by signing the list in the porch. This does not commit you to the pilgrimage but indicates that you might like to come.

Harrow Citizens Community Organising Training On Sunday, 12th and 19th March (2-5pm) in the Parish Hall of St John Fisher RC Church, North Harrow. Paul Amuzie (Brent Community Organiser) will be delivering some bespoke training for us over two weeks in March. The training is exceptional. It is incredibly stimulating and inspiring and I'd really encourage you to come if at all possible. It's a great way to understand Community Organising from the inside and prepare ourselves for the work to come. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Shaun shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School Vacancy - Finance Officer Required immediately 30/36 Hours per week – term time only plus two weeks, Salary: G09 - 23,966/28,761 (dependent on hours and negotiable on experience), Closing date: noon Wednesday, 8th February 2017. For further information please contact Marion Bowles on 020 8868 2961, visit www.stjohnfisherschool.co.uk/vacancies/. This is an exciting post for an ambitious applicant looking to work in an expanding school, with the opportunity to develop a strategic role.

Parish 100 Club The 100 club is a wonderful way to support the parish and fundraise so that we can pay for the new sanctuary. Forms are available from the wall rack by the right hand side notice board in the porch. Please could parishioners who pay yearly make their next contribution of £60 in order to be included in any future lottery draws. Cheques payable to “St John Fisher RC Church”. You've got to be in it to win it!

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes are now available to view on our website www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk or on the noticeboard in the porch.