



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)

12th February 2017 ~ Sixth 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

Jewish Scriptures, in which the Law is contained, are to this day sung in Jewish services. Reading was not enough – singing is needed for the full sound to be present. And really to sing, we have to believe in and be truly present to the words and the music. We need to be open to their deepest meaning. We need to let the words abide in us, disturb us, change us.

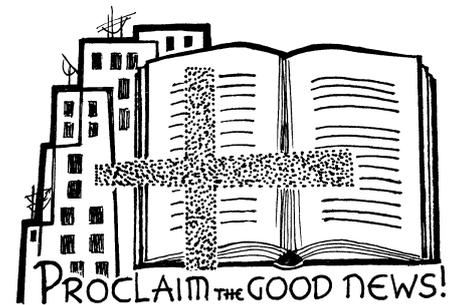
So this is not Jesus imposing the Jewish Law on the first Christians in all its details. It is Jesus taking us to the heart of the Law of God. In reflecting on the heart of the Law Jesus confronts us with the terribly destructive consequences that some of our actions can have. For example, when we look at others: do we look at them in

love, rejoicing that this child of God exists, or do we ultimately see them as simply for our use – sexually or otherwise? Do we take with our hands what we need, or whatever this consumer that is me happens to want at this particular moment? Is our yes really yes and our no really no?

This is obviously a huge challenge, and Jesus uses deliberately shocking language about tearing our eye out or cutting off our hand if they cause us to sin. And of course, often we're thoughtless rather than malicious. But that's the point – just because my anger was thoughtless because I was in a bad mood about something else doesn't mean it caused any less damage to the person I yelled at. Again, we might think about things, but just be too quick – talking the talk rather than walking the walk.

Perhaps this is why St. Paul, in today's second reading, is critical of the wisdom of his age. They had their philosophers just like we do. Some of them, known as Sophists (as in sophisticated) taught people to be smart, to win every argument, but with little concern for whether they were actually right. In the verses just before, Paul says to the people of Corinth that when he came to them he did not use "lofty words or wisdom" to proclaim the mystery of God, but rather decided "to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

When we have listened to such hard truth and heard its full and honest sound. When we have prayed to be enlightened by the reality of Christ's teaching, then we can understand that we gain true freedom by placing ourselves under the law of the gospel and this can be disturbing.



Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 11th February 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)
18.00 In Thanksgiving – Marshel & Jolita Amutharasan (25th Wedd. Anniv)

Sunday 12th – 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Vincent Keating RIP

11.30 Bridie Fitzgerald RIP

Monday 13th – Feria

09.30 Mrs. T. Byrne RIP

Tuesday 14th – STS CYRIL, Monk, and METHODIUS, Bishop, Patrons of Europe

09.30 Helen Wiggins RIP

Wednesday 15th – Feria

19.00 Kevin O'Shea RIP

Thursday 16th – Feria

09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP

11.00 Requiem Mass for Zygfryd Wypchol RIP

Friday 17th – Feria

09.30 Angela Clusker (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.

(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, Bernie Looney, David Flower.

Pray Also For Angela Clusker, Patrick Hannigan, Teresa Fernandes, Albert Smith, Joan Hickey, Denny Bowles, George Ransley, Winnie McDonagh, Nora Broderick, Fr Jeremy D'Cruz, Kathleen Beesley, Cecilia Woodhall, Aurora Fernandes, David Notley, Bridget Davis, (baby) Terisa Stokes, John Duffy, Eileen Reilly, Ann Kelleher, Oswald McCarthy, Sheila Wlodarczyk, Theresa Orakwue, Agnes D'Souza, Patricia Rebbitt, Bridget Mary Hoft, Winifred Roach and John Foley 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>. It seems that sending out the newsletter via Mailchimp has been a great success. We now have over 600 subscribers.

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. If you would like a private meeting with Bishop John, please contact Fr Shaun.

Traidcraft Fairtrade food stall is open after all masses this weekend. 'Real' Easter Eggs, made from Fairtrade chocolate with an Easter story booklet for children & Easter cards will be on sale. Orders from Traidcraft (traidcraftshop.co.uk) can be handed into the stall or emailed to siftraidcraft@gmail.com.

St. John Fisher School Annual Dinner & Dance Raffle Tickets will be on sale on **18th/19th February 2017** after 6pm, 10am & 11.30am Mass. Cost £1 per ticket. There are some fantastic prizes

available, including the following: **1st Prize: £150 Cash Prize; 2nd Prize: iPad Mini; 3rd Prize: Dinner and overnight stay for 2 at The Village Hotel Watford.** Draw to take place on 24th February 2017. Many thanks for your support.

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.

Bethany Group The next meeting for members will be on Thursday, 16th February at 7.30pm.

Mass for bereaved parents will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 11th March at 2.30pm. It's a time to remember, to pray, to give thanks, and to entrust deceased children to the Lord. All are welcome to attend.

Thanksgiving for the Holy Year of Mercy The last of 6 talks organised by St Patrick's, Soho in thanksgiving for the Holy Year and also to mark the proposed stained glass windows for the Church. Dr Gabriele Finaldi, who is a Director of the National Gallery, is giving the talk on “The Crucifixion, icon of love and mercy” on Monday, 6th March 2017 at 7pm. All are welcome.

Faith Matters – Lent 2017 A series of talks around the theme of Faces of Mercy. The first evening will be held at Vaughan House on 7th March 2017 at 7-8.30pm when Mgr Roger Reader will talk about prison ministry. Details of other talks can be found on the notice board in the porch.

Mary's Meals I am delighted to say that the parish managed to give 1,670kgs of unwanted clothes; there were also donations of £568.26 making a total contribution of £1,403.26 which is a fantastic result. The amount raised will feed 101 children who will not only get fed one good, nutritious meal every school day for a whole year, but they will get an education too. Well done.

Diocese of Westminster Job Vacancies For more info please visit <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/>.

Baptisms take place on the first Saturday of the month at 12.00pm. Please contact Kay O'Connor on kayconnor@rcdow.org.uk.

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.

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.

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.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers 2017 If you have any vouchers for St. John Fisher School then please either put them in the collection or post them through the presbytery door. *Thank you.*