



# St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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

[www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk](http://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)

## 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 ~ Seventh Sunday of the Year A

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### *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

Jesus says that the Father loves us all just as he sends his rain equally on the righteous and unrighteous alike. Jesus is telling us that we should treat ourselves, our enemies and our friends as God does, with loving equality, recognising the dignity of each person. Jesus proposes the kind of relationship with others that is creative and healing. It is based on the way our Father treats us, the way Jesus himself lived.

Similarly, Jesus says that if your opponent in law would take the shirt off your back, give him your vest too. In those days in Palestine, a poor man would have just two garments: a cloak and a shirt. By surrendering both of them, you show your opponent what he is really doing: reducing a poor man to nakedness and shame.



Again, you may be obliged to carry some equipment for a Roman soldier. The military had the right to make civilians do this, but only for one mile, not more. Very well then, says Jesus: surprise him by offering to go two miles. That is far more constructive than making an official complaint, or plotting revenge by joining a resistance movement. You would be showing the Romans that there is a different way to be human, a way which reveals God's victory over all oppression, injustice and inequality.

These three little scenes give glimpses of God's way for us to live a truly human life. They are not easy; and perhaps they were not intended always to be taken literally. But, they should certainly urge us to think about our own behaviour, and realise that we are often oppressive or domineering. They should encourage us to share Jesus's truly creative and loving way of being human.

We are inclined to think of the Sermon on the Mount as a blueprint for our moral behaviour, but when we try to live by it, it seems to make impossible demands. But try reading it differently. Try seeing it as a description of Jesus himself, and the way he himself lived. He is poor in spirit, he is meek, he is merciful. He does not resist the one who is evil, but turns the other cheek. He loves both neighbour and enemy. In short, he shows us God's way to be man. And if he shows us the way, he will certainly also lead us the truth and the life.

*Fr Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Bridget Relf RIP

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Helen Wiggins RIP

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Donal Ryan (Anniv)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Feria

09.30 Rose Flynn RIP

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Feria

09.30 Maisie Browne RIP

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

19.00 Mike Boland RIP

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

09.30 Manuel de Freitas (Anniv)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Feria

09.30 Helen Wiggins 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**, Daniel Gilmartin, Nancy Hawkins, Ann Whitehead.

**Pray Also For** Donal Ryan, Manuel de Freitas, Pat Ryan, Gabriel Dias, Lil Cawley, Joan Chan, Delia Burke, Francis Roberts, Thomas Martin, Margaret Caden, Seamus Browne, Joe O'Reilly, Aristides Cordoba, Kitty Tully, John Noble, Patrick Kilcoyne, Eileen Steinitz, Leon St Hill, Michael Anderson, Nanette Burke, Joanna Roberts and Catherine Lissemore whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Please Remember** Michael Boland who has died. Requiem Mass on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am at St John Fisher followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

**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.

**Parish Pilgrimage** Would those people who would like to come on our parish pilgrimage to Poland please ensure that they have booked with Pax Travel by 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Please remember that you will also need to send your deposit with your booking.

**Bishop's Visitation** Our area bishop John Sherrington will make a visitation to the parish on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> February 2017. If you would like a private meeting with Bishop John, please contact Fr Shaun.

**St. John Fisher School Annual Dinner & Dance Raffle Tickets** will be on sale this weekend 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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Many thanks for your support.

**Harrow Citizens Community Organising Training** On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk).

**Lent Talks 2017 God's Mission and ours** This series organised by our Churches Together is in North Harrow Methodist church hall, Pinner Rd at 8pm on the four Tuesdays in March. The speaker is Rev. Dr. Chris Wright. There is a charge £3 for each session or £10 for the series. Refreshments provided. **Titles of Talks:** 7th March - Announcing God's plan; 14th March - Calling God's people; 21st March - Obeying Christ's Mandate; 28th March - Caring for God's Creation. There are fliers in the porch with further details.

**Mass for bereaved parents** will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**SJF Ladies Club – Film Night** On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February after 7pm Mass in the Fisher Room. The film will be "War Horse". £1 towards refreshments - everyone welcome.

**Knitting Group** will meet on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm in the Fisher Room. All donations of wool will be very welcome which can be dropped off in the presbytery.

**Baptisms** take place on the first Saturday of the month at 12.00pm. Please contact Kay O'Connor on [kayconnor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kayconnor@rcdow.org.uk).

**Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 at 3pm** The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact Claudia at [claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk) / 8429 5681 by **Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017** with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

**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.

**Saint Vincent de Paul Lottery Tickets** On sale in the porch after all Masses this weekend. This is our main fund raising event so all contributions gratefully received. Tickets are £1 each. Prizes range from £3,000 (1<sup>st</sup>), £2,000 (2<sup>nd</sup>), £1,000 (3<sup>rd</sup>) and 10 x £100 and 10 x £50.