



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)

19th March 2017 ~ Third Sunday of Lent 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...

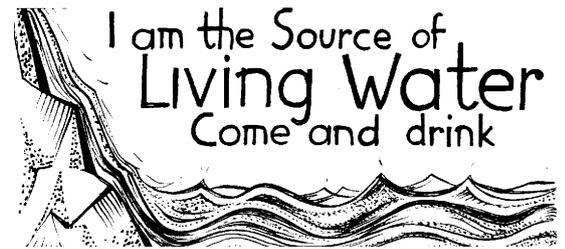
To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
To Gather the Community and Tell the Story
To Sing and Make Music to the Lord
To Break the Bread and Share the Cup

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

When Jesus says to the woman by the well: "Give me a drink", he is not pretending to be thirsty. It is not a show designed to trick her into following him – rather it is Christ expressing the divine thirst for souls. For us, too, the thirst for God, which every human being possesses, is not something pretend or cosmetic. It is real and it is a fundamental characteristic of our human natures, which the woman by the well acknowledges when she says "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

But is this how we ourselves treat the thirst for God? Do I see my thirst for God and my following of Christ as something which is accidental to my life, or is it something that I value as being fundamental to my existence? Do I believe in the grace of God that can transform me inwardly and enable me to change my ways? Do I have the courage to live without sin as sin is no longer inevitable in the life of grace? Of course we all know that it is not always easy to find that courage. In fact, it may be a difficult and complicated process. We frequently waver and our faith is weak and when



we finally have the courage to do what is right and true it often demands a great sacrifice. We need to trust, though, that Jesus is with us in that process, even when we waver in our weakness.

We ought also to admire the Samaritan woman whom Christ meets by the well for her courage to stand in the truth and to follow Christ. Her difficult past is brought to light in the conversation: she is in her sixth relationship and that relationship is irregular. But she is able to stand in the truth and accept that the living water can only come from Christ. She is refreshed and goes off to preach the good news about God's mercy to others, the mercy that did not condemn her but rather gave her the courage to stand in the truth. Jesus also gives us that same courage even today by allowing us to accept the truth even if it is by incrementally small steps.

Today's Gospel is about whether we see our faith, our friendship with God, as something of fundamental necessity, and about whether we have the courage to change accordingly so that we might worship God in spirit and in truth. God's mercy should spur us on to answer his call with joy. This call leads us to the fullness of life in Christ by whose wounds our shattered and fallen race has been made whole.

Fr Shaun

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 18th March 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 19th – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 Helen Wiggins RIP

10.00 Franco Giannotti RIP

11.30 Wojciech Mlek (Anniv)

Monday 20th – **ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese (transferred)**

09.30 Nora & Tom Forde (Anniv)

Tuesday 21st – Lent feria

09.30 Joseph Thiruchelvam RIP

Wednesday 22nd – Lent feria

19.00 Pam Manton RIP

Thursday 23rd – Lent feria

09.30 Kathleen Mc Nerney (Sick)

Friday 24th – Lent feria

09.30 Mary Quinn (Int)

10.00 Stations of the Cross

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, Honora Norgate-Bennett, Doreen Williams.

Pray Also For Wojciech Mlek, Nora & Tom Forde, Anthony Caden, Lisa Alex, James O'Shea, James Finn, Elizabeth Cahill, Leon Casartelli, Beryl Barltrop, Sergio Carvalho, Stephen Forde, Catherine Maguire, Ellen Kiernan, Bertie Pillai, Paul Esler, Alfred Hill, Stephen D'Cruz, Noel O'Neill, Margaret Rogers, Josephine Doyle and Grace Selvarajah whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please Remember Honora Norgate-Bennett who has died.

Cremation Service at Breakspear Crematorium on Wednesday, 22nd March 2017 at 11.30am. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

Doreen Williams RIP Reception Service on Wednesday, 22nd March 2017 at 6.30pm at Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, Harrow on the Hill. Requiem Mass on Thursday, 23rd March 2017 at 11am followed by burial at Carpenders Park.

Confirmation 2018 If you are currently in school year 8 or above and would like to be Confirmed in May 2018 you are invited to come to an information meeting to find out more. To attend this meeting you must see Kay after Mass to register.

Theology on Tap – “The Death of Jesus” This time we explore the great mystery of the death of God's Son. Why did he die? What are the implications of the way that we think about God as a loving Father if he allowed the death of his only son? How has our theology of salvation developed from our experience of the death of Christ? We will think about all these issues at our next Theology on Tap which will take place on Wednesday, 22nd March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Social Club.

Palm Sunday – 9th April 10am Mass We will leave at 9.30am from St. John Fisher Church in order to process to St. Alban's for an ecumenical Liturgy of the Word at 9.45am. Thereafter we will return to St. John Fisher for Mass which will resume at the offertory. Please make every effort to be on time and collect your palm so that we can leave together for this special occasion.

Lenten Penance Service Our service of penance and reconciliation with absolution will take place on Monday, 10th April at 8.00pm. This is a wonderful way to prepare to celebrate the Easter mystery.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

8.30am, 9.30am (see note below), 11.30am

Holy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

9.30am Morning Prayer

1.00pm Children's Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

8.00pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

9.30am Morning Prayer

8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Mass as Normal

Bookkeeper - St John Fisher, Harrow North We are currently seeking an experienced Bookkeeper to handle the parish accounts at St John Fisher Parish, Harrow North. S/he will be responsible for entering accounts onto the 'OPAS' computer database system, preparing weekly cash for banking and ensuring invoices are paid on time. The successful candidate will ideally have experience in a similar position, possess an AAT qualification or equivalent and have a working knowledge of financial computer packages and standard MS office programs. It is important that the successful candidate is self-motivated, organised, can multi task and work to deadlines. S/he must be able to work to their own initiative within this role. **Hours of work:** 10 hours per week (preferably 2 mornings, flexible), **Salary:** £12 per hour, **Closing date:** 6 April 2017. For a full job description & application pack, please visit www.rcdow.org.uk or apply in writing to juliedauncey@rcdow.org.uk.

Eucharistic Ministers & Readers Rotas Please collect your new rotas for 1st April to 14th May from the pigeonhole in the porch.

Knitting Group will meet on Friday, 24th March at 2pm in the Fisher Room.

SJF Ladies Club – Pesto Evening A demonstration on making fresh pesto and tasting on Wednesday, 29th March after 7pm Mass in the small hall. All welcome. £1 for tea/biscuits. All proceeds will go to CAFOD.

Spring Coffee Morning – 2nd April 2017 Please keep this date free to come into the hall after 10am and 11.30am mass, to meet up with your fellow parishioners for a while and make new friends. A very warm welcome awaits you, so don't be shy. There will be a selection of homemade savoury and sweet snacks to go with your coffee, tea and juice. Raffle prizes will be on display in the porch after all masses on 1st April & 2nd April, so please support us by buying tickets, £1 a strip, even if you can't attend the coffee morning, as all proceeds will go to our parish debt. Donations of raffle prizes can be left at the Parish House.

The Pylon Summer edition 2017 Please send in news items by Sunday, 28th May to barbaratowell@sky.com or place in the appropriate pigeonhole for either Barbara Towell or Geraldine Kennedy. We look forward to receiving these and thank you in advance.

Palm Crosses Please come and help make crosses from the palm leaves on **Friday, 7th April (please note new date)** at 2pm in the Fisher Room. **Please bring scissors.** Tea/coffee provided.

Cantemus Directed by Jean Coward, will sing a Farewell concert on Sunday, 26th March 2017 at 3pm at St. John Fisher Church. Admission free.