



# 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)

## 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent 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

Today a lighter tone is introduced into our Lenten season, where purple gives way to rose, and our more sombre Entrance Antiphons are put aside, in favour of a call to rejoice. These are the unmistakable signs that we have reached *Laetare* Sunday, a little oasis in the midst of our penitential season, which has hints of the festivities to come. This change in tone is very important for us. So often, in the attempt to take the Lenten season seriously, and our efforts at prayer fasting and almsgiving, we risk becoming a little too gloomy - falling into the trap of the fasting hypocrites we heard of in our Gospel for Ash Wednesday. Today the call is to rejoice, be joyful and exult.

This changed tone is also reflected in our beautiful Gospel reading today, where Jesus heals the man born blind. What draws the attention perhaps more than anything else in this account is the way in which the man is healed. Jesus restores his sight by making a paste with the dust of the ground and spittle, and then covering his eyes. He then tells the man to wash in the Pool of Siloam, and his sight is restored.



The making of that paste from the dust of the ground has strong echoes of the account of the creation of the first man, the account of which we hear of in the book of Genesis. Adam is formed from the dust of the earth, and God breaths life into him, such that he became a living being. There are hints that what Jesus is doing in this healing miracle is an act of creation - to give a man the gift of sight, when he had never been able to see before is to create him anew. But Jesus doesn't just give him the ability to function well 'naturally', as it were. There is a supernatural element, something going beyond the merely natural, to the man's new found sight. He isn't merely able to see, just like those around him. Rather, after he has washed, he has been given the gift of faith, and so he sees much more than the others, more than the Pharisees and those who question him. It becomes clear that others, who were able to see, are blind in comparison to him. They are in the dark, unable to see or accept what Jesus has done for this man. The blind man has been taken out of darkness, into the natural light, and then into the supernatural light of faith.

*Fr Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Christy McDyre RIP

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

08.30 Theresa Tilbury (Anniv)

10.00 Katherine Hayes RIP

11.30 People of the Parish

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Pat & Romy Dias

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Patrick Monaghan (Anniv)

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

19.00 Pam Manton RIP

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Mr. B.S. Alfred RIP

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> – Lent feria

09.30 Billy Harte RIP

**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**, PC Keith Palmer, Aysha Frade, Kurt Cochran, Leslie Rhodes

**Pray Also For** Theresa Tilbury, Patrick Monaghan, Sabina Walsh, Charles Brown, Walter Jackson, Sean Kelly, Antonio Cacchioli, José Duran Carballo, Michael Lee, Ned O'Neill, Ann Castell, Kathleen Truscott, Bernard Letchet, Barbara Dyt, Lucy "Lucille" Goulding, Marian Blazek, Michael Stiffle, Quentin Gill, May McDonagh, Rose Cunningham, Clifford Perera and Phebean Martins whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Confirmation 2017** The next meeting is this Monday at 7.30pm.

**Confirmation 2018** This is the last opportunity to register to attend the first meeting for Confirmation 2018. You will be allocated a time to attend one of the meetings held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March. To attend a meeting, see Kay after Mass today.

**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. **Hours:** 10 hours per week (preferably 2 mornings, flexible), **Salary:** £12 per hour, **Closing date:** 6 April 2017. Full job description & application pack at [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk) or apply in writing to [juliedauncey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:juliedauncey@rcdow.org.uk).

**Easter Flowers Collection** There will be a retiring collection after Mass this weekend towards the cost of the flowers in our Church.

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

**Palm Crosses** Please come and help make crosses from the palm leaves on **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> 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, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm** at St. John Fisher Church. Admission free.

**Fairtrade stall** will be in the porch next weekend after 6pm and 8.30am Mass, then in the coffee morning after 10 & 11.30am Mass. Fairtrade 'Real' Easter eggs and a great range of other food is available so please come and browse.

## 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

**Easter Monday** Mass at 11am

**Palm Sunday – 9<sup>th</sup> 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, 10<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm. This is a wonderful way to prepare to celebrate the Easter mystery.

**Spring Coffee Morning – Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017** In the Parish Hall after 10am & 11.30am mass. There will be a selection of homemade savoury & sweet snacks, coffee, tea and juice. Raffle prizes will be on display in the porch after all masses so please buy a ticket, £1 a strip, even if you can't attend the coffee morning, all proceeds go to our parish debt. Donations of raffle prizes can be left at the Parish House.

**The Pylon Summer edition 2017** Please send news items/photos from your church groups, articles, short stories, poems, recipes, holiday/theatre/book recommendations - anything you feel would be of interest. We are looking for contributions from all age groups. Deadline: Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2017. Please email [barbaratowell@sky.com](mailto:barbaratowell@sky.com) or place in pigeonhole for Barbara Towell or Geraldine Kennedy. Thank you in advance.

**Planned Giving Envelopes 2017/2018** Envelopes are available in the church porch for collection. If you cannot find your box or if you would like to start using one then please write your details on the sheet provided.

**Gift Aid** Please notify Antoinette Moriarty if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains [antoinettemoriarty@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:antoinettemoriarty@rcdow.org.uk).

**Welcome Me as I Am**, with support from local MIND groups and Caritas Westminster, will be holding four workshops across the diocese this spring. They will cover a number of topics including: spirituality and mental health, working with common mental health issues, and how to signpost to local support. Each day will be tailored to the needs of the local area. There will also be time to explore how your parish can become a welcoming community. The workshops will be held at 10am-3pm at the following: 29<sup>th</sup> April Our Lady and St Joseph's, Kingsland; 13<sup>th</sup> May Vaughan House; 17<sup>th</sup> June St John Fisher, North Harrow; 1<sup>st</sup> July Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City. For more information and to RSVP please email [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk).



**Happy Mother's Day**



We wish all mothers a very happy and relaxing day.