



# 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)

## 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter

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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

In the passages we have been reading from St John's Gospel since Easter Jesus is faced with the question of how he will remain close to his followers once he has returned to the Father. In the farewell speech that we hear today Jesus is preparing his disciples in particular about how to face life without him. How will they survive imminently when he will be taken and crucified but even after he has risen in glory to his Father how will he be present to them? He does not want them to have any illusions. The world will hate them as it has hated him. They too will face persecution. So he concentrates on turning inwards. They will be a community apart. They must find their true identity by keeping Christ's commandments. And this means that they must love one another. There is no mention of loving enemies.

The church community which Jesus prepares for them will replace the old temple now destroyed. Christ now is the new temple, his Father's house, where they will experience the presence of God. As Jesus tells them "I am in the Father and you in me and I in you". The Christian community is where the Father and the Son will dwell and each member will experience the presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit. Christ will not leave them orphans for they will be children of God living in this new family which Christ creates on the cross as he gives his beloved disciple into the care of his Mother.



But while the Gospel seems to turn inwards the first reading from Acts turns us out to the world. Obviously it makes sense for the Church to know its own identity before it tries to convert others. And as the Church remains in Jerusalem after Pentecost it insists on certain practices which define itself. It insists on the teaching of apostolic doctrine, it holds its property in common, it prays and it breaks bread in the Eucharist. These disciplines define the Church. But once it knows who it is then it must obey Christ's command to move out. It can no longer be self-absorbed. 'You will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem, but throughout Judaea and Samaria and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

Persecution forces the Christians to leave Jerusalem. Stephen is stoned for his witness to Christ. And today Philip enters the hostile world of the Samaritans and proclaims the Gospel. The Spirit of truth in John's Gospel is now the Spirit which drives the Church out of its comfort zone. Through the power of the Spirit Philip continues the work of Jesus as he drives out the demonic spirits and heals the sick. Peter and John come up from Jerusalem to legitimate what has been happening. The church is one in its teaching and its mission. And the Kingdom of God extends to new territories as the new converts are baptised and themselves receive the Holy Spirit. The mission must continue if Christ is to be a light to the gentiles.

The witness of John's Gospel and the witness of the Acts of the Apostles must complement each other. Christians must know their faith and live it before they can evangelise. In other words we can't preach love of enemies unless first we have shown that we can love and forgive each other. By doing this we show that the Church is both contemplative and missionary.

*Fr Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Anthony Emmanuel (Anniv)

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 John de Freitas (Anniv)

11.30 Regina Emmanuel (Anniv)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 Billy Harte RIP

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 Aleksandra Nekut RIP

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Easter feria

19.00 Larry O'Rourke RIP

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> – St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor

09.30 Caitano Fernandes RIP

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – St Philip Neri, Priest

09.30 Helen Gallagher 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.**

**Recently Deceased**, Deirdre Dewhurst, Betty McNally, Larry O'Rourke, Patrick Byrne, Denzel Bailey, Des Riggs, Kitty Madigan Meade, Marie Tranor.

**Pray Also For** Anthony Emmanuel, John de Freitas, Regina Emmanuel, Theresa Hughes, Joe O'Gorman, Joe McGrath, Aldo Minoli, Bridie White, Patrick Moloney, Frank Gallagher, Sadie Horan, Cornelius Clancy, Mary O'Shea, Augustine Texeira, Kurian Thomas, Mai Dineen, Sarah Madden, Ronald Martin and Julie Wilson whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**First Holy Communion** Please keep in your prayers the second group of children who are receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist this weekend.

**June Collins RIP** The family of June Collins would like to thank you all for your support during our recent loss. Thank you also for your mass intentions, messages of sympathy and most of all for your support at this sad and difficult time in our lives. The monies raised for June's favourite charities have now been dispersed. June's month's mind mass will be held at St John Fisher Church on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm and will be celebrated by Fr. Mehall Lowry. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

**Because you're worth it** Many of us are aware of the scourge of Human Trafficking where unsuspecting people are brought into the country and used for the purposes of domestic or sexual slavery. To combat this, we have set up a Safe House for such people. We propose to hold a collection of toiletries which can be used as a welcome gift to women who come into our care. This collection will take place on the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June when Sr. Doreen Bradley will tell us about the work that she does with these women. So please buy an extra toiletry over these coming weeks and bring it to the parish on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> June. This appeal forms part of our Love in Action campaign.

**Welcome Ministry Rota** We need more volunteers so if you are interested or no longer want to be on the rota, please contact Sue Moriarty at [suemoriarty@sky.com](mailto:suemoriarty@sky.com).

**Bethany Group** The next meeting for members will be on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

**The Pylon Summer edition 2017** Please send news items/photos from your church groups, articles, short stories, poems, recipes, holiday/theatre/book recommendations. 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.

**SJF Young Adults Group** This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together. All welcome. We will meet on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June** after the 11.30am Mass in the Fisher Room. Contact Johnpromise [promisemagnus@yahoo.com](mailto:promisemagnus@yahoo.com).

**St. John Fisher Social Club** are running an Irish theme concert to take place on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm in the parish hall. Nearly all of the acts are parishioners and all are local residents. We have run a number of these in the past with great success. Tickets are £5 each with all proceeds to parish funds. For tickets/further information, please contact [durcanjohn@aol.com](mailto:durcanjohn@aol.com).

**International Day – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - Calling all gardeners** This year we plan to have a Plant Stall at the International Day. It would be great if you are planting seeds you could sow a few extra, or maybe you could take some cuttings from garden plants/herbs to put in pots and **remember to label**, or plant up a hanging basket/patio pot. More information about where to bring them nearer the day.

**Craft Stall** There will also be a craft stall for Bakhita House. We would be grateful if parishioners could make handmade items such as soft toys, dolls clothes, jewellery, knitted garments and fancy goods. Please drop these into the presbytery by Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**International Kitchen** In the porch you will find sign-up sheets for the International Kitchen. This is very popular and only works with your help, so please share some of your home and culture with the parish. If you can spare half an hour to help serve in the kitchen, please sign up on the separate sheet in the porch.

**Mental Health Workshop** will take place in SJF Parish Hall on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10am-3pm. If you would like to attend, please visit [www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/mentalhealth). For more info, please see poster in the porch.

**The Great Get Together** Many of you will remember the tragic death of the late MP Jo Cox. In her memory local people all over our country have been asked to get together for a street party. As members of Harrow Citizens, we will be delighted to join others for a BBQ on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm at St. Peter's Church, Sumner Road, West Harrow HA1 4BX. The event is free – donation on the day. We will put a list in the porch so we can let our hosts know how many people are coming. Please sign up not only to remember Jo but also to forge closer links in our community.

**Sunday Picnic on Pentecost Sunday** Together our churches are holding a picnic at Elmfield Church, Imperial Drive in their garden at 1pm-4pm on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. Bring your own food, drinks will be provided, bouncy castle. We hope many families will join us.

**St John Fisher Catholic School – Vacancy for Class Teacher KS1 or KS2** Required for Sept 2017, full time permanent post, Salary: MPS. St. John Fisher is a Catholic, voluntary-aided school which is increasing to three-form entry, with a strong emphasis on inclusion. We would welcome applications from both experienced teachers and NQTs. You will be joining this 'outstanding' school (Ofsted 2009/Section 48 2014) at a time of expansion from two to three form entry. Please see website or contact the school for further information and/or the application pack [www.stjohnfisher.harrow.sch.uk](http://www.stjohnfisher.harrow.sch.uk). Visits to the school are welcomed, please ring office to make an appointment. **Closing Date: noon Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May; Interviews: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Parish 100 Club Draw – March 2017 Winners:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize £100 Harry Gallagher, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £50 Ciara & Aaron O'Flaherty, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £25 Neil Cocking.

**April 2017 Winners:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize £100 Neville Bayross, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £50 Suri Mather, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £25 Winifred Kennedy.