



# 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)

## 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017 ~ The Ascension of the Lord

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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 thinking about the resurrection perhaps it might be better to say that Jesus went forward into life, rather than he came back from the dead. The first point to remember is that Jesus's risen life is not the same as the pre-resurrection life, what Saint Paul calls the life we now live in the flesh. We can see that there's something different about Jesus from the accounts we've heard in the last few weeks of the appearances of the risen Christ to his disciples.



You might point out that he still had on his body the marks of his passion – the holes in his hands, his feet, his side. True – and that is the second point to remember: Jesus's resurrection doesn't undo his crucifixion, it *completes* it. This is part of why we shouldn't say he came back to life, as if the resurrection wiped away the crucifixion. This is especially important for us because we have to realise that resurrection lies the other side of crucifixion for us also: only when we nail to the cross our vanities, our follies and our wickedness will we enter into the life of the risen Christ. Only when we can say 'I have died with Christ, buried my sins in the tomb, and now it is no longer I who live but Christ in me' will we have gone forwards into the new creation that Christ has inaugurated for us and for the whole cosmos.

If we realise this then we can properly grasp the significance of the Ascension. There is always a danger with today's feast that we think of it as a convenient way of getting Jesus off stage. But it is almost exactly the opposite: it's a celebration of Jesus's presence with us, not his disappearance. Of course this is precisely what he tells us in today's Gospel: 'I am with you always, to the end of the age.' With us in our minds, with us in our hearts? Certainly, yes. With us in spirit, indeed. But in the Spirit, and that means not 'rather than in the body.' Far from being less real, less bodily than when he was with his disciples in Galilee and in Jerusalem, his presence with us now is more real and more bodily.

Through his body which is the Church Jesus, brings us the love and mercy of God, shown to us on the cross, into the darkness of people's lives, there indeed Christ is to be found. We are members of that body, that authentic, powerful presence of Christ, when we leave behind our sins and move forwards into new life. Already in this life, strengthened by the gift of the Eucharist, we have a foretaste of the fullness of the resurrection life, when we turn from our sins and back to God, and allow the life of Christ to make itself felt in and through our loving presence in the world.

*Fr Shaun*

## Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 John Calnan

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

08.30 Pam Manton RIP

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 Mick McBreen (Anniv)

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 June Collins RIP

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 Noreen Simpson (Anniv)

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> – THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

19.00 Rose Ena King (Anniv)

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June – St Justin, Martyr

09.30 P.J. Maloney RIP

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Easter feria

09.30 Mary Heffernan (Anniv)

**10.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

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**, Felix Darragh.

**Pray Also For** Mick McBreen, Noreen Simpson, Rose Ena King, Mary Heffernan, Julia Reilly, Jean McSweeney, Ciara Carvell, Brendan Connolly, Patrick Morley, Vincent Breen, Bob Howard, Queenie Lee, Kathy Casey, Kay McGrath, Jack Keane, Walter Hickey, Magda Gordon and Nora McManamon whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Sacrament of Confirmation** We pray for, and congratulate, our 48 young parishioners who will be conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> May by Bishop John Wilson.

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

**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.

**Confirmation 2017** Our next meeting will be on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June from 6.00-6.30pm where payment can also be made for photographs.

**Confirmation 2018** Our next meeting will be on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June from 5.30-6.30pm.

**Applications for First Holy Communion 2018** will be available in the Fisher Room on any of the following: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June from 5.30-5.45pm; Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June from 9.15-9.45am and 12.30pm and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June from 6.45-7.15pm, for any child who will be in school year 3 or above from September 2017. The cost of the programme is £20 which covers the cost of the workbooks. If your child was baptised outside of the parish you will need a photocopy of a baptism certificate when you register.

**Knights of St Columba – Sponsored Walk** There will be a collection this weekend for the sponsored walk on 4<sup>th</sup> June in aid of the Daylight Christian Prison Trust. Thank you for your support.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 at 8pm in the Social Club.

**SJF Young Adults Group** This is a space for all Young Adults in their 20s and 30s to come together. All welcome. Next meeting 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).

**Parish Women's Group walk** Come along for a summer stroll around Ruislip Lido, followed by a drink, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June. We will be meeting at the church car park at 7pm. Please let Elspeth (07779 392244 or [elspeth.everitt@gmail.com](mailto:elspeth.everitt@gmail.com)) know if you are coming and whether you would like a lift or can offer space in your car. All women in the parish, & friends, are very welcome.

**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. 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** As usual the whole of our community, parish and school will work together. As a parish we take responsibility for the following stalls: Books, Cakes & Refreshments, the Bottle Tombola, Irish Coffee, International Kitchen & the Gate Entrance.

We need men to come forward to help with the BBQ and as usual there is a sign-up sheet for the International kitchen. This is your chance to share something of your culture through food. If you can spare half an hour to help serve in the kitchen, please sign up on the separate sheet in the porch.

Donations of Jolly Jars, Handbags, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Bottles and Cakes are all very welcome. So have a root through your homes and bring your donations to the church porch or to the mobile unit in the school playground.

**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, i.e. soft toys, dolls clothes, jewellery, knitted garments and fancy goods. Please drop these into the presbytery by Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**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 hot & cold will be provided, bouncy castle. We hope many families will join us, ask your friends! See poster in the porch.