



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)

24th September 2017 ~ Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the 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

In the ancient world that Jesus inhabited casual labourers were in an insecure position. There was lots of unemployment and no unemployment benefit. One denarius was the going rate for a day's basic work and it would



support a man and his family for a day. The social agreement was that they be paid each evening. To be unable to earn it was to risk real hunger for you and your family that day or the next. What we see at the beginning of the parable is a landowner acting conventionally and also justly. Those workers expect and get one denarius so why do they complain? They end up unhappy, losing much of the satisfaction that could have been derived from an honest day's work justly rewarded.

The reason is linked to the landowner employing other people for less time, and giving them the same sum. The first ones think they should be paid more. But it is not the mere fact of the landowner doing this that was the problem. It was the perspective and attitude they form in regard to it. They chose to compare themselves with those who have done less. They are envious of them and think they deserve more. They resent it and go away with less joy than those who worked less hours. As Jesus said, the last will be first, and the first last – here applied to joy. They could – and should – have seen the landowner's initiative as a generous strategy to ensure that more people got what they needed to live on. At the heart of justice is giving each person their due. Seen properly, there is no real question of the landowner being unjust to those employed all day. Rather he has been just to the others, indeed more than just: he has been generous or merciful. They could have rejoiced in that, and been happier, not less happy, during the evening.

Through this parable Jesus is addressing the fundamental issue of justice and mercy in our relationship with God, and that of others with God, and the joy we find in it. The parable is about receiving, co-operating with, and rejoicing in the graces necessary for our eternal salvation. God wants as many people to receive the gift of salvation, and so in this world, like the landowner who frequently goes to the market to find labourers, he ceaselessly, generously and mercifully calls us back to him.

Today's parable invites us to recognise that what we have received from God, especially grace, is a gift. God does not need us, but is both just and generous to us.

We are challenged not to commit the sin of envy of what others have, be it talents, money or leisure, and, added to that, resent God himself for his distribution of mercy and gifts, so poisoning our own relationship with God and reducing our love for God and neighbour. We are called to rejoice in the awesome scale of God's goodness when we see God extend his gifts and mercy to others. To do so is to love.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 23rd September 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Margaret Garvey (10th Anniv)

Sunday 24th – 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Sr Maria & Sr Eleonora RIP

10.00 People of the Parish

11.30 John Patrick Hayes (Anniv)

Monday 25th – Feria

09.30 Tony Hayes RIP

Tuesday 26th – Feria

09.30 Joe Biggins RIP

Wednesday 27th – St Vincent de Paul, Priest

19.00 Shammy Canagasuriam

Thursday 28th – Feria

09.30 Effie Steijger RIP

Friday 29th – STS MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAPHAEL, Archangels

09.30 Goldwin Viegas 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, Delia Goonan, Marie Munt.

Pray Also For Margaret Garvey, John Patrick Hayes, Mary Joseph Anthony Pillai, Jack Fitzgerald, Diana Antony, Christine Roglic, Francis Lewandoski, Maura Moriarty, Natalia D'Silva, Sassi Pellegrini, Raymonde Thillier, Rosemary Faleiro, Sean Caden, Delia Mulvaney, Keith Cullis, Agnes van Rosse, Eileen Lynch, Bridget & James Horkan, Mary Kane, Peter Lamble, Michael Mascurine, Margeret Doran and William Murphy whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Altar servers If anyone would like to train to serve at either 8.30am or 11.30am mass, please see Kay after mass. Currently we are full at 6pm and 10am mass and will advertise when we have space.

Faith Sharing Groups The October Faith Sharing resource "Say it with your Life" has arrived and is available for collection from the Sacristy.

Singalong Concert (with a Latino / Italian theme) On Saturday, 7th October at 7.30pm in the Parish hall. Ticket £5 - including tea/coffee & cake. Come & join us for a fun musical evening! Tickets are on sale after all Masses this weekend and will be available on the door. In aid of the Church fund.

Theology on Tap We begin our new season of Theology on Tap on Wednesday, 11th October at 7.30pm in the Parish bar. The subject we shall explore is 'The Sacraments – the glory of the Church or a mechanism to control the faithful?' All are welcome.

Book Club Evening - Thursday, 12th October at 8pm in Parish Centre - small hall, Cost £1 The Parish Women's Group invites you to an evening where we will be discussing the novel 'The Invention of Wings' by Sue Kidd Monk. In addition, we will also spend time recommending to one another books we have enjoyed. Small amounts of light refreshments or a bottle to share would be most welcome. All women in the parish, plus their friends, will also be made most welcome! Look forward to seeing many of you there. For more information contact: Barbara Towell at barbaratowell@sky.com or phone 020 8866 6665.

Do you buy Sainsbury's own-brand tea? If so, you may have noticed that the widely recognised and independently assured Fairtrade Mark has been replaced with Sainsbury's own 'Fairly

Traded' label. CAFOD, Traidcraft and others have got together to ask Sainsbury's to re-consider. www.dontditchfairtrade.com has more information, an online petition to sign and other ways to take part in this campaign.

The Pylon - Christmas edition 2017 Please send us your articles, accounts of parish events, reports from your church group, original short stories, poems, book/film reviews, holiday recommendations, recipes, advice, about your pets - anything that you think would be of interest to our readers. (Word limit approx. 1,200.) Photographs accompanying submissions, greatly appreciated. If you have any photographs of the International Day that you would be willing to share, please email them to geraldine2906@gmail.com. We will welcome contributions with a Christmas flavour as well as items written by children & younger members of our parish. Thank you. Deadline: **19th November**. Please email items to barbaratowell@sky.com or geraldine2906@gmail.com. Alternatively, place in appropriate pigeonhole in the porch at the back of the church. Many thanks.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School - September 2018 intake The school is holding an open day for prospective parents on **Saturday, 4th November 2017** with tours at 9.00am and 10.00am. If you are interested in looking at the school please contact the office to book on one of the tours, tel 020 8868 2961.

Salvatorian College - Open Day On Tuesday, 3rd October 2017 from 9.15 - 11am and/or 5.30 - 7.30pm. This is an opportunity to learn about the College's high academic and behavioural standards under new Headteacher Mr Martin Tissot, and for more information on the admissions process for September 2018. Please note: the events will take place at the **Priestmead Campus, off Hartford Avenue, HA3 8SZ**.

St Dominic's Sixth Form College - Open Day On Saturday, 7th October 2017 at 9.30am-3.00pm. See poster in the porch.

Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith - Open Evening for Sixth Form On Wednesday, 11th October 2017 at 5pm-7.30pm. The Headteacher will address candidates and parents and invite them to take a tour of the school. The school prospectus, including an application pack, will be available for collection. Closing date for applications is Friday 10th November.

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School Reunion Did you go to Cardinal Wiseman? Were you 16 in 1976? Desperately seeking this year group for Reunion Saturday, 23rd September at Brent Valley Golf Club 7.30 onwards. Contact Mary 07951 771265.

School Admission Fr. Shaun will sign school forms for **SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFERS** on *Monday, 9th October at 6.30-7pm* and *Saturday, 14th October 2017 at 9.30am-12.30pm* in the Fisher Room (*forms have to be with the schools by 31st October at the latest*) by APPOINTMENT ONLY so please contact Claudia McHugh on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk / 8429 5681 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am-1.30pm). When making your appointment please advise the number of schools you are applying for, your child's name & a contact telephone number. If applying for the London Oratory please bring copies of any forms you need to submit.

The Certificate of Catholic Practice must now be completed for all applications to schools that use 'practising Catholic' as a criterion for admission. The Certificate of Catholic Practice is a form approved by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to be given to parents, on request, by the priest at the Church where the family normally worships. The Certificate is available to download at <http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions>. Please note that the current version has the copyright symbol at the bottom.