



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

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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)

8th October 2017 ~ Twenty-Seventh 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

Isaiah in the first reading today compares God's people to a vineyard that has yielded bad grapes. All that loving labour, the soil carefully prepared, the sunny hillside well-chosen, the selected vine stock planted, the hedge to keep out the



wild deer – and the neighbour's goats – the tower and the wine-press, all lovingly prepared. God has lovingly protected his people, and they have rendered only sour grapes, violence and oppression. Well then, Isaiah prophesies, God will destroy this vineyard. The vineyard was not necessary for God, and yet he created and tended it out of his love. He had chosen a people for himself. They were unfaithful and they will be destroyed. Except of course, Isaiah tells us later on, of the hope that God will save a remnant and they can rebuild after the destruction, after the judgement.

Jesus uses the same imagery in our parable today, but his emphasis is very different. For Jesus the problem lies not with the vineyard but with the tenant-farmers. The vineyard produces its grapes and from them the wine for drinking. However, the tenants will not give the land-owner his due. Such share-cropping arrangements, with the landowner and the tenants splitting the produce were normal agricultural business practice in Jesus' time. Such arrangements, now as then, are frequently exploitative and unjust. However, when the tenants beat up and kill the master's agents, they don't complain that they cannot afford the rent and buy clothes for their children. This is not a peasant rebellion against an unjust landlord. The tenants' motive is named as pure greed, they want the vineyard for themselves. They even kill the owner's son and heir. Perhaps they think that in future years they can then legally claim the vineyard as their own property on the grounds that the legitimate owner had abandoned it.

The judgement is pronounced against the tenants, and new tenants will be found to deliver the produce in due season. The parable is not told against the vineyard which symbolises God's people, unlike Isaiah's parable. The parable is told against the contemporary religious leaders. So this parable is specifically not a rejection of the Jewish people, but it is a call for a fresh leadership of God's people, a leadership who will allow the vineyard to flourish and render to God the fruit.

The key to this new leadership is the son, who in our parable was thrown out of the vineyard and killed, just as Jesus would be killed.

How can this sorry tale be good news today? Perhaps it may be a warning for all who work in the kingdom of God, priests and others. The vineyard is God's vineyard, not our vineyard. Unlike the bad tenants we should labour not for our own financial or psychological benefit, but for God. The fruits of the vineyard, God's pleasure, are peace and integrity, not greed and oppression.

Fr Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 7th October 2017 (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 People of the Parish

Sunday 8th – 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.30 Alice Standon (Anniv)

10.00 Gabriel Faria RIP

11.30 Katherine Hayes (Anniv)

Monday 9th – Feria

09.30 Famiglia Nigrelli

Tuesday 10th – Feria

09.30 Padrig Shea RIP

Wednesday 11th – Feria

19.00 Lawrence John & Lawrence George Graham-Leigh (Anniv)

Thursday 12th – Feria

09.30 Anton Regis RIP

Friday 13th – ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, Patron of the Diocese

09.30 Tony Crick (Anniv)

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 Katherine on 8868 8512.)

Recently Deceased, Julie Street, Fr John Elliott, Tommy Harvey, Teena Connolly.

Pray Also For Alice Standon, Katherine Hayes, Lawrence John & Lawrence George Graham-Leigh, Tony Crick, Dennis O'Connor, Edith Steinitz, Joseph McGeoghan, George Mahon, Louisa Tydda, Bryan Cross, Gwladys Smith, Phyllis Berry and Brigitte Ryan whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptisms We welcome Amelia Forbes, Theo Miranda Vindbjerg, Axel Montaut and Hendrix Saunders-Harpwood who are being baptised in our church this weekend.

Annual Parish Meeting To be held on Monday, 27th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Items for the Agenda should be notified, in writing, to the Chairman c/o the Parish House, by 13th November at the latest.

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.

Fr John Elliott RIP Many of you will remember Fr John Elliott who was an assistant priest here some years ago. Fr John died on 30th September in Bath where he had retired. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the comfort of his family, friends and parishioners who mourn him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Traidcraft stall is open in the porch after all masses this weekend. Come, browse & support our parish Fairtrade shop.

CAFOD Christmas cards Last year, thanks to your support, the parish donated £277 to CAFOD from the sale of Christmas cards and Traidcraft gifts. CAFOD, Christian Aid, SCIAF & Traidcraft also receive a portion of the price of every pack of cards sold. Next weekend you can view the full range of 2017 cards, place orders and pick up a Traidcraft catalogue to take home & browse. You can also select from the Traidcraft online shop www.traidcraftshop.org.uk & email your order to siftraidcraft@gmail.com. From 21st October the stall will be open every weekend to pick up orders and buy cards. By ordering from the stall, you are helping small scale producers in some of

the world's poorest communities, supporting the charities and saving postage costs.

Knitting Group We are meeting on 20th October at 2pm in the Fisher Room.

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 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.

Mass for the Bereaved Each year in November we celebrate a Mass for those who have been bereaved. This will be held on the Feast of All Souls, on Thursday, 2nd November at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Small Hall.

St John Fisher School Harvest Assembly We are delighted to invite senior parishioners to our Harvest Assembly followed by refreshments on Tuesday, 10th October at 10.00am in the school hall. We hope many of our friends will be able to join us.

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.

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.

Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador Rise Theatre presents a new original play about the life of Blessed Oscar Romero on Friday, 20th October 2017 at 7.30pm at St George's Catholic Church Parish Centre, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury HA0 2QE, www.risetheatre.co.uk. For more info see poster in the porch.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 6th October Please return your envelopes today. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.