



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
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www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Stokes, 020 8429 5684, grahamstokes@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)

15th April 2018 ~ 3rd Sunday of Easter

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS
week beginning Sat 14th April 2018

14th Sat	(Vigil of Sunday)
6.00pm	Mary McBride RIP
15th Sun	3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER
8.30am	People of the Parish
10.00am	John De Freitas RIP Anniv
11.30am	June Collins RIP
16th Mon	Easter feria
9.30am	Michael Hughes RIP Anniv
11.30am	Requiem Mass for Patricia Roach RIP
17th Tue	Easter feria
9.30am	Elizabeth "Betty" George RIP
18th Wed	Easter feria – no mass
19th Thu	St Alphege, Bishop & Martyr
9.30am	Helen Gallagher RIP
20th Fri	Easter feria
9.30am	Patrick O'Malley RIP

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5.15pm - 5.45pm
and by appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 8.15am – 9.15am (**not** on 23rd & 30th April)
First Friday 10am - 11am (concluding with Benediction)

Baptisms

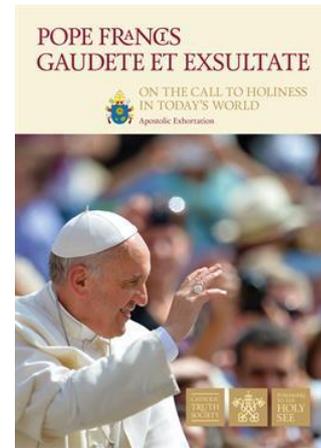
First Saturday at Noon

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

REJOICE AND BE GLAD

That is the English title of Pope Francis' latest Apostolic Exhortation, 'Gaudete et Exsultate', on achieving holiness in the modern world. My seminary dissertation was on the same topic. I recall well the quote from Donna Orsuto, a Professor of Spiritual Theology, that 'holiness, to many, is regarded as a special sort of hybrid hobby for the piously impractical at best, and escapist sissy stuff for the weak at worst.'



As if responding to this critique Pope Francis aims to present holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities whilst also reminding us that the Lord 'wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence.' (GE 1)

The key points made in the document include:

- holiness is being yourself – the saints offer us many inspiring models of holiness yet we are called to replicate their virtues and not their lives
- everyday life and actions lead us towards holiness
- we must avoid Gnosticism – believing that holiness can be achieved by what we know; and Pelagianism – believing that we can earn holiness ourselves without God's help
- to be holy is to be kind to others in all areas of life
- The Beatitudes are a roadmap for holiness, above all being merciful.

Every blessing

Fr Graham

“...we should be holy and blameless before Him”

Ephesians 1:4

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 020 8868 8512 or Tony on 020 8868 3205. If you would like to be visited by a priest and/or regularly with Holy Communion, please contact the parish office.

Recently Deceased, Paul O'Neill, Kitty Ogden.

Pray also For John De Freitas, Michael Hughes, Una Graydon, Bernard Devine, Patrick Kennedy, Teresa Kitchie, Joe & Nora Broderick, Mary Maher, Seamus O'Brien, Richard Plesner, Theresa Sundaram, Irene Hurst, Bridget Byrne, Trenton "Lloyd" Henry, Helen McNamara, Kathleen Forde, Alice Tobin, Nellie Connolly, William O'Riordan, James Pettifer, Tom McCann, John Manners, Andrew Blyth, Karl Smol, Mary Chute, Pauline Egan, Mary Parker whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Confirmation 2018 Reminder to candidates of the next meeting at 5.30pm on Monday, 16th April, Parents meeting at 7.30pm.

Harrow Citizens As you will have read, Harrow Citizens are holding their **launch assembly on Tuesday, 24th April** at St Johns Church, Greenhill, 276 Station Road, Harrow HA1 2EA (opposite Debenhams) at 6.30pm. We are asking our parishioners to support Harrow Citizens as it follows up on our recent Love in Action project when we identified four key areas where we wanted to bring about change. Low wages, refugees, housing and Mental Health. It is important that we demonstrate our faith through love for our neighbours, and Harrow Citizens is a brilliant vehicle for us to do that in a very practical way. There is no huge commitment, just any time and energy you can spare. The more of us behind it, the less work there is for any one individual. Please sign the list at the back of the Church and attend the meeting on 24th April. There is more joy in giving than receiving.

Priest Training Fund Next weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will also take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 45 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 28 of whom are for our own Diocese, and last year eight men were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please take one home and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can also donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

Monday Morning Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament This proved popular during Lent, therefore this will continue on Monday mornings when Fr Graham is available including next Monday, 16th April but **NOT** 23rd and 30th April. Please check the newsletter each week. Adoration and Benediction will continue as now on the first Friday of the month.

Eucharistic Ministers & Readers Rotas Please **collect** your new rotas for 28th April to 17th June 2018 from the relevant pigeonhole in the Church porch.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion To enable a swifter and more orderly distribution of Holy Communion we are now scheduling on Sunday masses three extraordinary ministers to assist the priest in distributing the Eucharist together with the four extraordinary ministers who distribute the Precious Blood. Any comments welcome to Fr Graham.

The Pylon - Summer edition 2018 Please send us your articles, accounts & photos of parish events, reports from parish groups, original short stories, holiday or book recommendations, about your pets, recipes, advice - in fact, anything you think would be of interest to our readers. (Word limit approx. 1,200.) Either email barbaratowell@sky.com or place in appropriate pigeonhole in the Church porch. Once again The Pylon is holding a Creative Writing Competition for younger readers: 1st Prize of £10 and a prize for runners up in each of the age groups a) Ages 16 – 12; b) Below 11 years. All winning pieces will be published in our Christmas edition. We are asking for either short stories, flash fiction or poetry on *any topic*. This must be your own original work. Please ask parent/guardian/teacher to verify. Make sure you include this; plus your full name, age and contact details on the work or email. **Deadline for all submissions is Sunday, May 13th.**

Bethany Group The next meeting for members will be on Thursday, 19th April at 7.30pm.

Knitting Group will meet on Friday, 27th April at 2pm in the Fisher Room. All donations of wool will be very welcome which can be dropped off in the presbytery.

Fairtrade Stall will be open in the porch after all masses **next** weekend with a great range of food & drink. Every purchase gives farmers and small producers a fair price and contributes to development through trade. Thank you for your support.

A Day with Mary A day of instruction, devotion and intercession at Our Lady of the Rosary, Old Marylebone Road, NW1 on Saturday, 21st April 2018. For timetable, please see poster on noticeboard.

March for Life UK/LifeFest18 will take place on Saturday, 5th May 2018 in Central London. 9.30am-1pm LifeFest in Connaught Rooms, Covent Garden. 1.30pm procession/march. 2.30-4pm Rally in Parliament Square with speeches. Please make every effort to attend this event. A full itinerary is available at marchforlife.co.uk or see the poster on the notice board in the porch.

Porto & Santiago de Compostela 25-31 October 2018 with Pax Travel. Cost £899 or less. Details in porch. Please contact Neil Cocking to register your interest as soon as possible on 07850 790747 / neilcocking@outlook.com.

Belmont needs men! In October 2018 Belmont Theatre will commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1 by presenting Journey's End by R C Sherriff. This evocative, moving play is based on his experiences on the Western Front and is set over four days in the claustrophobic atmosphere of the trenches. We need 11 men aged from 18 – 50. If you are interested or require further information please contact Michael Collins on 07917 324179 or info@belmonttheatre.co.uk.

Crib Offerings Thank you for your generous donations. £367.21 was raised which will go towards the work of the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster).

New to the Parish? Please make yourself known after Mass to either Fr Graham or Kay O'Connor so you may be registered and provided with all the relevant information. A welcome pack is available from the wall rack in the Church porch.