

ST. JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Jordan 020 8429 5684
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Parish Catechist: Kay O'Connor 020 8429 5682
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"Here I am, send me"

We live in a sceptical society. In our modern scientific age, people want concrete proof before they will believe in anything, and so the claims of faith are often disputed and denied. How can you believe without seeing or touching the evidence? Such scepticism is not, in fact, new. More than a century ago it was challenged by the Catholic poet Francis Thompson, who wrote:

"O world invisible, we view thee,
O world intangible, we touch thee,
O world unknowable, we know thee,
Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!

When we believe we become convinced of a divine reality, a reality that we may not be able to prove in this world, but which is greater and deeper than anything in creation. At times we all experience fears, doubts and hesitations, but these are part of building up human trust. And risk is a crucial element in learning to grow. If you want to be able to swim, then you have to take the risk of taking your feet off the seabed.

The readings today focus on three different people who come to believe. But before they come to faith, they all respond with fear, with hesitation, or with a deep sense of their own unworthiness. Yet they become convinced of the reality of the presence of God, and it's a presence to which they have to respond.

Isaiah trembled before such holiness and was deeply conscious of his sinfulness, but once he had been purged of his uncleanness, he was ready to be sent. He was called from the liturgy to preach the message of a holy God to an unjust society.

Paul was called by the Christ whom he had persecuted in the Church. This learned, zealous Pharisee came to acknowledge as Messiah and Son of God the crucified Jesus whom he had despised. And this turned his view of the world upside down. He was aware of the failings of his past; but this did not deter him, for he was convinced that he had been called by the powerful presence of the risen Christ to be his apostle to the Gentiles.

Simon Peter was neither prophet nor learned scholar but a rough fisherman whom God called when Jesus found him with his brothers at work among his boats and nets. He was reluctant to respond to Jesus' command to cast his nets again. He had the concrete evidence of his eyes and hands, that after a night's labour there were no fish to be caught. But he took the risk of leaving the security of what he knew from his everyday experience and putting out into the deep.

The abundant catch of fish which almost burst the disciple's nets was for Peter the sign of a divine presence and he was afraid: "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man." But Jesus is not so easily put off. He has come to catch sinners and call them to be his closest disciples. Peter, his fears allayed, is convinced by his experience of the divine presence in Jesus and leaves everything and follows the one who calls.

St. John Fisher Social Club Annual General Meeting will be held **THIS EVENING** at 8pm in the Small Hall.

Sick Chris Fernando, Peter Flaherty, Mary Riordan, Heather Kneipp, Sam Ryan, Michael Kunicki, Grace O'Shea, John Hodgson, Con O'Donoghue, Linda Sherwin, Joseph Pragasam, Christopher & Katherine Browne, Mary Brampton, Frank Moran, Rifit Chukta, Michael Kelly, Clive Johnson, Noel Johns, Canon Pat Davies, Aarti Taylor, Thelma Camberbatch, Neville Higgins, Betty George, Carl Jurgenson, Michael Byrne, Colette Thornborough, Susan Morgan, Ann Brien, William Graham, Wilma Woodstock, Richard Cobb, Bob Smith, Bernie O'Shea, Jason Moore-Martin, Daphne Bose, Nelly Dyt, Betty Browne, James Lloyd, Nadia Tagliani, Queenie Lee, Frederick Sutherland, Eileen Jordan.

Recently Deceased Jean Fox, Martin McDonagh.

Anniversaries Rasiyah Albert, Catherine Sullivan, Neil Browne, David Lavelle, Martina Mulvaney, Peter Sullivan, Daisy Rowland, Robert O'Beirne, Joe Donoghue, Florence Else, Donald Bayross, Martha Dyball, Tessa Corrigan, Patrick Hannigan, Joan Hickey, Denny Bowles, George Ransley, Aurora Fernandes.

Mass Times

Sunday 6pm (Saturday) 8.30, 10.00, 11.30am
Monday 10am Feria (Fifth Week of Year 2)
Tuesday 10am Feria
Wednesday 10am St. Scholastica, Virgin
Thursday 7.30pm Feria (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Friday 10am Feria
Saturday 9.30am Feria
Exposition & Benediction Saturday 10 10.30am
Confessions Saturday 10 10.30am 5.15 5.45pm

Mrs. Teresa Hewins RIP Parishioners may remember Teresa who was a regular worshipper at St. John Fisher's for many years. Her Funeral Mass will take place at 11am on Friday, 12th February at St. Luke's Church, Pinner, followed by burial at Woodcock Hill Cemetery, Harefield Road, Rickmansworth. Refreshments afterwards at St. Luke's Church Hall. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to Teresa's family. May she rest in peace.

Annual Mass for those buried in Harrow Weald and Carpenders Park Cemeteries will take place at All Saints Church, Uxbridge Road, Harrow Weald, at 11 am Monday, 15th February.

Readers & Ministers of the Eucharist & Church Cleaners New rotas which start from **this weekend** are available in the Church porch. If you have not already done so, please pick up your rota **this weekend**.

St. Luke's Hospice Abseil 2010

Rose Tallon, one of our parishioners, would be very grateful of your sponsorship when she abseils down the side of Northwick Park Hospital on Saturday, 13th February. Rose will be at the back of the Church after the 10am & 11.30am Masses this weekend or you can call her on 07903 493477.

St. John Fisher Pre-School Coffee

Morning will be held on Thursday, 11th February from 10.30am 12 noon. There will be an opportunity to buy Easter chocolates from the Chocololics representative.

Bethany Support Group Our next meeting will take place on Monday, 8th February at 8pm in the Sacristy Room.

National Day of Prayer & Fasting for Life Ash Wednesday Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayers and fasting is urgently needed. For more information contact The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740 or email info@goodcounselnetwork.freeserve.co.uk.

Parish Music Following the recent Annual Parish Meeting, the parish music groups are looking to introduce new music to the liturgies and recruit new members. We will be running our second workshop on Saturday, 13th February to go through some new music from the hymn books in preparation for Lent and Easter. We will meet between 2.30pm 5pm in the Church and everyone is welcome. If you play an instrument or wish to sing as part of the music group, please make yourself known to us after Mass. If you just want to come along and sing for an hour or so, that would be great. "*He who sings prays twice*" St. Augustine. More information from Jan 020 8429 0954.

Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of

Matrimony Following last year's celebration, Archbishop Vincent Nichols is inviting couples celebrating 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th & 60th + wedding anniversaries to a Thanksgiving Mass at Westminster Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday, 22nd May. If you wish to attend, please phone Mary Evans (8429 5681) by Friday, 19th February at the latest.

Churches Together in North Har-

row Application forms for the Lent House Groups on the theme "When I survey...Christ's cross and ours" are available in the rack in the Church porch. Please complete and return them as soon as possible before Sun-

day, 14th February. Contact 8248 4997 or mariedwin99@yahoo.co.uk
Pancake Evening 7pm on Tuesday 16th February is when St. John Fisher hosts a pancake sharing event. Between 200-300 are consumed many by children. Madeleine and Angela, with help, cook and toss some in the kitchen, but to keep up with demand we prepare in advance and reheat in the oven. We need donations of pancakes or pancake mix please. Pancakes can be brought, or cooked and frozen separated by grease proof paper. It is good fun, so look forward to seeing you. Proceeds raised from the evening go to St. Luke's Hospice. Handmade greetings cards in aid of the hospice will also be on sale.

Parish Women's Group We are a friendly group of women of all ages, who meet on a monthly basis for different activities. All women of the parish are welcome to join us at our meetings. In March we have planned a trip to the Watersmeet Theatre, Rickmansworth to see 'Chess The Musical', performed by the Harrow Light Opera Company, on Thursday evening 25th March, tickets costing £14.50. Please email Julie at redstonezzz@googlemail.com if you would like to come or leave a note in the 'J' pigeon hole in the Church porch. Payment by 14th February please.

Harrow Council's Question Time

Tuesday, 9th February from 7pm at Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End. Question Time is designed to let Harrow residents have their say with leading. Whether your question is about sports facilities, leisure, education, housing, waste collection or libraries, we want to hear from you. You can submit your question on the night, or in advance by emailing questiontime@harrow.gov.uk

Welcome to our Parish If you are new to St. John Fisher, or have been away for sometime, you are very welcome. Please introduce yourselves to Fr Kevin or Kay after Mass and ask for a parish registration form. If you are already registered, it would also be appreciated if you could let us know of any changes to your details e.g. change of address, so that our files can be updated.

Sick List If you have asked for someone to be put on the sick list, it would be appreciated if you could let Mary know whether that person should be taken off.

Are you going into hospital? If you are admitted to hospital, or know someone in hospital, it would be appreciated if you could inform one of the Parish Team. If you, or a relative or friend are admitted to Northwick Park, please ask for the RC Chaplain and phone the Hospital Chaplaincy giving the name and ward of the patient 8869 2112.

Mass Intentions It would be helpful if parishioners could give **at least 8 to 10** weeks notice if they would like a Mass celebrated for a particular intention.

Daily Reflection Leaflets of today's Gospel are in the Church porch.

Westminster Year Books are now in stock, price £4. Please collect a copy from the Sacristy.

Mind the Gap: Faith in Film The next series of 'Mind the Gap' our Lenten series for young adults (17-35ish) will take the form of 'film nights' with

refreshments and discussion:

22nd February Faith like Potatoes

1st March Maximilian Kolbe: Saint of Auschwitz

8 March The Pursuit of Happiness

15 March The Fourth Wise Man

7.00 9.30pm (6.30pm refreshments)

Venue: Our Lady of the Assumption &

St. Gregory Church, Warwick Street,

London W1 (2min. Piccadilly Circus)

Contact daveburke@rcdow.org.uk

The Beginning Experience are holding a weekend for those who find themselves alone again through bereavement, divorce or separation. This will take place from 26th 28th March at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham. For details phone Nicky on 01296 488289.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 10th 14th May staying at the Hotel Alba (full board) Cost £460. Phone John Sullivan on 8459 0279.

Pilgrims Progress February edition is now available and includes details of the CTinNH Lent activities, including the Pancake Evening in our Parish Hall on Tuesday, 16th February starting at 7pm together with other events taking place in the churches in North Harrow.

Bingo Night in aid of St. Luke's Hospice on 9th March at Freddy's Bar, 190-194 Station Road, Harrow, 7.30 to 10pm. Cost £10.00 includes a light supper. Contact Jemini Shah on 8382 8018 jvshah@stlukes-hospice.org