

ST. JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
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On the third day He rose again

While it may seem a little early in Lent to be talking about the Resurrection there is an interesting connection that I discovered this week. The number 40 has great biblical significance – the number of days and nights it rained in the time of Noah, the number of days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God, the number of years the Hebrew people spent wandering in the desert, the number of days Jesus fasted in the desert, and so on. Hence we have 40 days of Lent – Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday excluding the six Sundays.

However, there is another significance to 40. In the Creed we profess, "On the third day He rose again." Note that we do not say *after* three days but simply *on* the third day. In other words the reference to three days in the tomb is understood as spanning the days from Good Friday afternoon to early on Easter Sunday morning. And the total number of hours in the tomb? Yes, you guessed it – 40.

I am trying very hard this Lent not to see prayer, fasting and almsgiving in a negative light as a penance but rather, to paraphrase the Holy Father's Lenten message, as a source of justice for God, myself and others respectively. The idea that every day of this holy season is one hour spent with Christ in the tomb and therefore one step closer to the resurrection and new life has filled me with renewed enthusiasm. *Fr Kevin*

'Living As One' - The second week takes us further on our journey together in looking at the nature of the Church. Last week the question was 'who are we asked to love?', week 2 asks 'how?' The answer is surely to follow Christ's example, loving as he loved, forgiving as he forgave, letting his peace rule in our hearts. Meditation booklets are available at the back of the Church price £1 - please put money in 'Papers' Box.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day Friday 26th February - Lent is a time when many of us choose to give something up as a reflection of our faith. This year, why not turn whatever you're giving up - biscuits, wine, magazines, a meal - into lasting change for a child, a family or a whole community? Just take what you would save during your 40 days of 'giving up' and donate it using the envelope provided return the envelope with your offering this weekend when there will be a collection in aid of CAFOD's poverty fighting work in the developing world. Thank you for your support. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to fill in your Gift Aid details.

Day of Devotion Saturday 13th March 10am - 3.30pm marking the launch of a 9 month novena nationwide tour of the image, which concludes 13th December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - a day of devotion to, and enthronement of, the consecrated image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Westminster Cathedral Hall. Admission free.

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, 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, Stanley Jones

Recently Deceased - Agnes D'Souza

Anniversaries - Patrick Kilcoyne, Monica Fitzmaurice, Lilly Martin, James Small, Thomas Lee, Jack O'Gorman, Istvan Papp, Katherine Obi, Patrick Sloane, George Brampton, Archie O'Brien, Francois Joseph, Helen Cronin, John Dignam, Delia Murphy, Veronica Furie, Doris McNulty, Helen Leahy, John Rogers, Brian Morahan.

Mass Times

Sunday 6pm (Saturday) 8.30, 10.00, 11.30am
Monday 10am - St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales
Tuesday 10am - Lent Feria
Wednesday 10am - Lent Feria
Thursday 7.30pm - Lent Feria
Friday 10am & 7.30pm - Lent Feria (First Friday)
10.30 - 6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction
6.45pm - Stations of the Cross
Saturday 9.30am - Lent Feria
Exposition & Benediction - Saturday 10 - 10.30am
Confessions Saturday 10 - 10.30am 5.15 - 5.45pm

Baptisms - We welcome Kiana Kajendran, Aidan Comyn, Shane Walsh, who are being baptised in our Church this weekend.

First Friday - 5th March Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is from 10.30am - 6.30pm. Parishioners are invited to write their names on the sheet in the Church porch if they are able to watch for half an hour during this time.

Readers & Ministers of the Eucharist New rotas which start from 13th/14th March are now available in the Church porch.

Lent Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6.45pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm. The second Lent lunch, in aid of St. Luke's Hospice, will be at St. George's Church, Pinner View, on Saturday, 6th March from 12.30 - 2pm.

Youth Mass The next Youth Mass will be on Sunday, 14th March at 10am. We will rehearse promptly at 9.00am in the small hall. Music will be available from 28th February. For more details please phone Jan on 8429 0954.

Association of Separated and Divorced Catholics (ASDC) On Monday 1st March the ASDC will hold its informal get-together at St. Bernard's Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt between 8 - 10pm. Do join us, bring a friend if you wish (Wills 8797 2847 or willsbuckley@blueyonder.co.uk)

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) At our meeting on Wednesday, 3rd March there will be a sale of hand-crafted bags, other fabric goods, cards and ceramics. All lovely items are hand-made by Barbara and Wendy, Duck Pond Markets, make ideal gifts and prices are reasonable. The sale will start at 7.45pm in the small hall and all parishioners and their friends are welcome. Our UCM business meeting will follow.

Lenten Divine Mercy Day of Prayer At Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 6th March 9.30am - 4.30pm, led by Mgr. Keith Barltrop, Fr. Wojtek Jasinski and Fr. Andrzej Gowkielewicz. More information from Divine Mercy Apostolate, 01491 414498, info@divinemercury.org.uk

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:

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

Novena to St. Joseph 10th - 18th March at St. Joseph's Church, Maidenhead. Each year the Mill Hill Community prepares for the Feast of St. Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers. The Novena is a great way of building links of prayer across the world. For a free booklet to enable you to join them from home by praying the daily Novena prayer, please write to Fr. Denis Treacy, Mill Hill Missionaries, PO Box 3608, Maidenhead SL6 7UX no-vena@millhillmissionaries.com. Even if you have received information about the Novena in previous years, please contact us again this year.

Vocations Discernment Events Discovering Priesthood Day for young men on Saturday, 13th March at Ealing Abbey 10am - 4pm. The day offers young men a chance to meet priests and seminarians from the diocese and religious communities to learn more about

the life and ministry of a priest. To book a place or for further information contact Deacon Gordon Nunn, Parish Office, Ealing Abbey 8862 2162 or

deacongordon@ealingabbey.org.uk

The Grail Centre Our Father - A Lenten 'Day Apart'. Reflect on the Lord's Prayer and its significance in the Lenten season at the Grail Centre, on Saturday, 13th March 9.45am - 4.15pm, cost £15.50 bring a packed lunch, hot drinks provided. Contact Grace or Valerie on 8866 2195 or bookings@grailsociety.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.

Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Join in pilgrimage with Archbishop Vincent Nichols in Lourdes this summer. The annual pilgrimage departs by air, train and coach from 25th July - 31st July. Pamphlets with booking forms are available in the Church porch.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single, widowed, separated and divorced Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet, either one to one or through social events. All members receive a monthly bulletin 'Catholic Networking'. More information 0161 9413498, info@catholicsingles.org.uk www.catholicsingles.org.uk

Pilgrims Progress The March edition is available this weekend and includes details of the Lent lunches, Lent house groups, Good Friday Walk of Witness and the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 5th March at 2pm at North Harrow Methodist Church together with various other events taking place in the churches in North Harrow.

Brightlights 2010 Calling all young adults of 16-30 years who are interested in being involved in the planning and preparation of the annual diocesan young adults' festival, Brightlights, being held at London Colney 16th-19th July. If you would like to help in any way phone 07891 375179 info@brightlights.co.uk

Forthcoming Social Events

Music for Lent at St. John Fisher:

Saturday, 13 March 2010 7.30pm To commemorate Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's 300th birthday this year, our church will host a concert of his masterpiece, "Stabat Mater" given by a group of teenagers from London, including students from the Royal College of Music, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, as well as diploma students with the Royal College of Organists and the Royal Schools of Music. Claudia-Sophie Giannotti, the leader of the string ensemble and a student at the Royal College of Music will also give a

performance of the virtuosic Fanstasie Brillante on Othello by Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst accompanied by Chris Taylor. Tickets -- Standard: £7 - OAPs & Students: £5 - Children (under 16): Free. More details from Wilf Jones (via Parish House)

St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance Saturday, 20th March 7.30pm for 8pm sharp in the Parish Hall. Tickets £20 per person to include 3 course dinner, dancing to Dermot Hegarty. To reserve tickets contact Sheila Rogers (8427 7619) or Steve Pal (8863 1737).

The Passage 'Party Like a Rock Star' at the Hard Rock Café, 150 Old Park Lane, London W.1 Thursday, 18th March 7pm - midnight. Live music from 'The Counterfeit Stones', tickets £60 each and include complimentary food and drink, available by phoning 020 7592 1856 or tickets@passage.org.uk. It is not possible to purchase tickets at the Café. All proceeds in aid of The Passage.

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.

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.

Suggestion Box The Parish Council and Fr. Kevin welcome your ideas which would benefit our Parish. The box is in the Church porch, next to the pigeon holes. All suggestions will be considered, although we can't promise to implement them all. You can also contact Fr. Kevin through the Parish Office if you prefer.

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.

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.

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

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