



**PRAYING TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH,
THE WORLD, THE PARISH & ONE ANOTHER**



SUN ☒ 05 Apr	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD HOLY WEEK BEGINS	Mass will be offered privately	Pro Populo - for the people of the parish
Mon 06 Apr	Monday of Holy Week	Mass offered privately at 9.30am	Sylvia Ferne RIP
Tue 07 Apr	Tuesday of Holy Week	Mass offered privately at 9.30am	Nechama Argent RIP
Wed 08 Apr	Spy Wednesday of Holy Week	Mass offered privately at 9.30am	For the staff of the NHS
Thur 09 Apr	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Mass offered privately at 7.00pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Pro Populo - for the people of the parish
Fri 10 Apr	GOOD FRIDAY Day of fasting & abstinence	The liturgy will be offered privately at 3.00pm	The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord For those who have died recently, especially those who have died ill prepared
Sat 11 Apr	HOLY SATURDAY	Mass offered privately at 8.00pm	The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night Pro Populo - for the people of the parish
SUN ☒ 12 Apr	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION	Mass offered privately at 9.30am	Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish

Prayer intentions during the pandemic: We pray for all who work in the NHS at this time, for our wonderful doctors, nurses and support staff, for all who are sick in any way, for the elderly & vulnerable and for those who are afraid. For our politicians making difficult decisions and for a compassionate heart for those who don't have to make difficult decisions but who readily criticise. Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father for April - Freedom from addiction. We pray that those suffering many be helped and accompanied.

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Richards shaunrichards@rcdow.org.uk
 Administrator: Nathalie Hasted
 Book keeper: Traci Blundell
 All Hall Bookings: Via parish office

Parish Safeguarding: Katrina Lavery sheppertong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
 Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator 020 7798 9356

St John Fisher Catholic Church, 15 Wood Road, Shepperton. TW17 0DH
Telephone: 01932 563116
website: www.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton or www.sjfchurch.org.uk Charity No: 233699



Sunday cycle
Readings Year A
Weekday readings
Holy Week
Divine Office
Holy Week

**ST JOHN FISHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH**



Sunday 5th April 2020
**PALM SUNDAY OF
THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**Whilst all public Masses have been suspended
be assured that the Holy Mass is offered at SJF in private,
day by day, for your intentions.**



**HOLY MASS
THIS SUNDAY**
Blessings on him who
comes in the name

Check out these readings in your Holy Bible for Palm Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

This is the Third Song of the Suffering Servant (cf. Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:1-6). It highlights the faithfulness the servant draws from the support given to him by God, whose attentive disciple he shows himself to be. Coming before the proclamation of Christ's passion, this reading is full of significance.

Second Reading: Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11

This reading is a hymn to Jesus Christ that serves as a preview of the events of Holy Week. It describes how the Son of God "emptied himself" of divine glory and became human like all of us. Out of love and obedience, he accepted his own death on a cross. Because Jesus humbled himself and did not cling to any of his special privileges as God's Son, he was glorified by his heavenly Father. We are called to have the same attitude of humility and obedience as Christ had.

The Passion Gospel: Luke: 22:14-23:56

On Palm Sunday the reading of the Passion dominates the celebration, and in a sense its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings, which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as more than just a story. It is our story – the tale of how God achieved our salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**FOLLOWING THE BISHOPS INSTRUCTIONS, THERE WILL BE
NO BLESSING OF PALM CROSSES THIS YEAR**

✠ THIS IS HOLY WEEK ✠



HOLY WEEK POSTERS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THIS SITE:

https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-wL1VyBcNpM/VuxVqQLnNMI/AAAAAAAAJgE/xoWJGmoEto2ebd_ewFKiGCoZpgi09h4w/s1600/holyWeek_risen.jpg

Remember to fold up the *He is Risen* flap until Easter Sunday morning.

OBLIGATION FOR EASTER DUTIES REMOVED THIS YEAR:

In these extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic when we are unable to gather together to celebrate the great feasts of Holy Week and Easter, Cardinal Vincent explains, that the obligation to our Easter Duties to go to Confession and receive Holy Communion is removed from us. Instead, he says, we can make an Act of Perfect Contrition to express our deep sorrow at our sins against the goodness of God, and leads us in prayer. You can read his full message here: <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-obligation-to-easter-duties-removed-this-year/>

WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS' SPECIAL URBI ET ORBI (The City and the World) MEDITATION

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith"? Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we flounder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. *Is* 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

SJF SAMARITANS: Would you like to join this new community group helping those who are self isolating or social distancing, to get help, be it with urgent shopping delivery, telephone companionship or support or picking up urgent medicines. If you would like to help, please contact Fr Shaun via email and please include your contact number. If you are in need of any urgent help, please phone Fr Shaun. You might also have heard that *Quality Fruit* amongst other retailers are offering to deliver to the elderly and vulnerable. If you want to place an order you can do so via Jean on: 07764 287595

MASS INTENTIONS: We can still arrange Mass intentions and have space available at Easter. To request a Mass intention, in thanksgiving, for a birthday or a wedding anniversary or for someone who is ill or who has died, please contact Fr Shaun via the office email or telephone.

AN UPDATE ON OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS:

Following advice from the Diocese, Nathalie and Traci have joined with other employees in the Furloughing initiative, advertised by the Government. This will protect jobs in the Diocese long term, but it does mean that for the coming weeks, they will no longer be working - even from home. If you have any enquires, Fr Shaun will be able to assist you.

LITTLE CHURCH: Have a look at our microsite:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/Shepperton>

and click on the tab 'THINGS TO DO WHILST AT HOME'

THANK YOU to parishioners who have contacted asking if they can still receive their weekly envelopes. Yes you can, just let us know and we will get them posted out to you. Importantly however, we realise for many who are unable to work, that this is a difficult time and church contributions are increasingly difficult. Please know that the care of your family comes first and whatever you would like to offer afterwards, when the time is right, will be a welcome gift.

MANNA FOOD BANK: Donations to food banks have dropped significantly. This is also the case for our local foodbank, Manna. Current shortages in particular are tinned and other long-life products

and toiletries. You can make donations to boxes at: Sainsbury's in Shepperton; Sainsbury's on The Causeway in Staines; Barclays Bank on Staines High Street and Laleham Village Shop/Laleham Food & Wine/Best One in Laleham. If you consider a donation too large to drop off contact Murray Ransom from Manna directly on 07768 585 711. Thank you.

RESOURCES FOR HOLY WEEK The Catholic Diocese of Salford have produced some excellent resources while we are confined to our homes. They are for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. These can be downloaded from the parish web site: www.sifchurch.org.uk or the microsite: www.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton

They are called the **LORD'S DAY AT HOME** and are well worth checking out. Additionally Westminster Cathedral have this past week started to stream one-line Masses and Liturgies.

AND FINALLY: we live in a surreal time in the history of our nation, of our world and of our Church. This is not how we would hope to be living life or indeed celebrating the Passion, death and resurrection of the Lord, but it is what it is and we have to make the best of our lot at this time. Whether you are staying at home with family or are living alone at this time, know that that you are being remembered and prayed for day by day at SJF, both during the Holy Mass and in the Priest's Offices of the Day. Let our prayer this coming Holy Week be, that the resurrection of the Lord this Easter may bring healing to our world and hope in our lives. Fr Shaun

KEEP SAFE - KEEP THE FAITH - AND CARRY ON

RECENTLY DEPARTED

David Bentall

ANNIVERSARIES THIS APRIL

Margaret Ward, Maurice Ward, Leila Waterhouse, Edward Reilly, Christopher Romer, Winifred Smith, Maureen Keady, William Walsh, Ted Jones, Anna Semkowicz-Holt, Cecilia Grose

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord