



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



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|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Sun ☒ 29 Nov | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Church open 9.30-10.30am With Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | Mass offered privately | In thanksgiving for the Nsubuga Family Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish |
| Mon 30 Nov | ST ANDREW, Apostle | No Mass at SJF Today | |
| Tue 01 Dec | Advent Feria | Mass offered privately | Teresa Brogan RIP |
| Wed 02 Dec | Advent Feria Church open 9.30-10.30am Holy Rosary at 9.30am | Mass offered privately | Lesley Hedges Sick |
| Thur 03 Dec | St Francis Xavier, Priest Public Masses Resume | 9.30am | Pauline Eyres RIP |
| Fri 04 Dec | Advent Feria | 9.30am | Norma Doohan RIP |
| Sat 05 Dec | Advent Feria | 10.00am | Eileen & Mathew Rowntree RIP |
| Sun ☒ 06 Dec | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 6.00pm (Sat Vigil) 8.30am 10.30am | Susan Carvelle & work of the London Clinic For an end to the Pandemic Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish |

Holy Rosary Prayers: currently offered in private.

Exposition and Benediction (Eucharistic Adoration): currently suspended.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: For the time being, please arrange this directly with Fr Shaun.

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father for December: For a life of prayer. We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Richards shaunrichards@rcdow.org.uk
 Administrator: Nathalie Hasted On Furlough
 Book keeper: Traci Blundell On Furlough
 All Hall Bookings: Via parish office (all bookings are currently suspended)

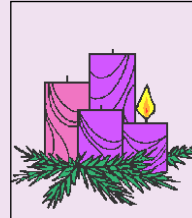
St John Fisher Catholic Church, 15 Wood Road, Shepperton. TW17 0DH

Telephone: 01932 563116

website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton> or www.sjfchurch.org.uk

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

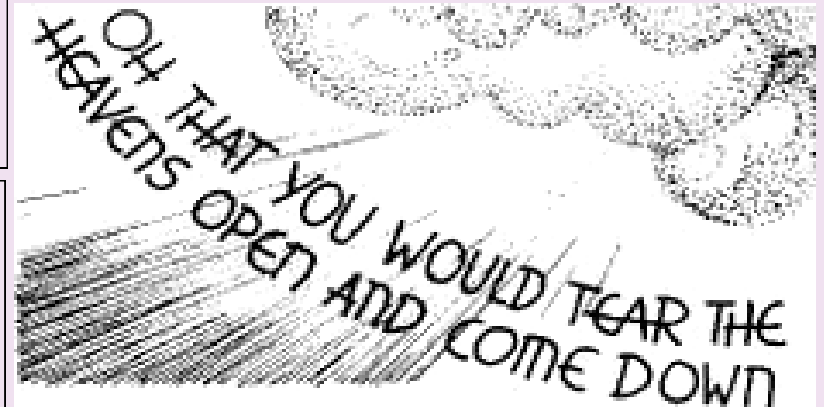
Charity No: 233699



Sunday 29th November 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

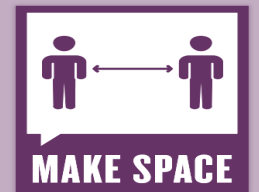
Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday readings
Advent 1
Divine Office
Psalter Week 1



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST JOHN FISHER

Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down". This is the cry, of a people who need God. The Master who is coming, is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that he is coming back.

We are encouraged to treat every day as the day when the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear, for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love, of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live, until tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today!





Advent has begun with a new liturgical year in the life of the Church - Year B. This is the start of a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before the great celebration of the birth of Christ. The Agency for Evangelisation, have prepared some resources for us to use for Advent, whilst we are at home. They are available on our web sites and paper copies are also available in church.

GREAT NEWS: Public Masses will resume here from Thursday Morning, with Covid Secure measures in place as usual. Please remember to wear your face covering and to check in when you arrive.

IN ADVENT ... during the Mass, the Gloria is omitted (with the exception of feast days). We save this beautiful song, sung by the angels in heaven for the great celebration at Christmas. In preparation for the birth of the Lord, please consider spending additional time in prayer, be that at home or in church. In preparation, the gentle Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) is also available by arrangement; just ask Fr Shaun.

OUR NEW CHURCH MEMBERS' DATABASE IS LIVE Thank you to all who have already submitted their forms. You are assisting us enormously in keeping in touch and in helping us to support you when needed. Many parishioners may well have been coming to SJF for years, but we still need you to complete a new registration/member form, so we are fully up to date. Please register as a member of your church now. You can register online via our microsite: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/church-registration-sign-up-here/>

Online registration is easy, it eliminates paper use, it helps to reduce errors and, in this time of pandemic, avoids paper handling. If you are housebound or temporarily isolating at home, it is especially important to register, so we can keep in touch with you. It would be good to complete the registration of all church members before the end

of this year. If you do not have a computer, you can pick up a paper registration form from the church. Thank you for helping us to help you.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO? *Sycamore* – are running an online Advent course for four weeks: Searching for God in life – a renewal of faith. <https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/advent-course/>

CHRISTMAS ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR. Christmas here at SJF will also be a little different, not least because the Masses will be said, without singing and therefore shorter in duration. In order to keep us *Covid Secure*, we will be limiting the numbers of people in church. There will be no requirement to reserve places for the Masses, we'll just work on a 'first come, first served basis' - as we have been doing over the past months.

We shall also miss very much, the participation of our children in our Nativity story. Times of the start of some Masses will also be changed. We shall do our very best to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, prayerfully, yet joyfully, remembering those who will remain at home shielding, and we'll focus, as always, on the Saviour, praying that we and our world may continue to be transformed by him.

CHRISTMAS EVE - Thursday 24th Dec

Morning Mass of Advent: 9.30am

Vigil Mass of Christmas: 6.00pm

Midnight Mass begins 9.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY - Friday 25th Dec

Mass of the Nativity: 8.30am & 10.30am

BOXING DAY - Saturday 26th Dec

Mass of St Stephen: 12.00noon

Vigil Mass for Sunday: 6.00pm

Sunday 27th Dec - The Holy Family

Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am

Mon 28th Dec - Fri 1st Jan - No Masses at SJF

Saturday 2nd Jan

Mass 10.00am

Vigil Mass for Sunday 6.00pm

Sunday 3rd Jan - 2nd Sunday after the Nativity

Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am

HOLY HARDWEAR: The Repository is open. We have Advent calendars for just £1.50, Christmas Rosary bracelets and beads for £2.50, Christmas gift bags, 6 for £5 and porcelain angels for £4 We also have cards, candles, and chutney!

FACTS AND FIGURES: the Annual Report of the Westminster Diocesan Trust is out now. You can read it on line at www.rcdow.org.uk/allabout-us

The theme chosen for the Report: *Lumen Christi*, is very appropriate in view of the current pandemic. It is by the light of Christ that we continue to walk, even when all around us appears dark. The Diocese of Westminster is one of the smallest dioceses in England and Wales in geographical area, but the largest in terms of Catholic population and Priests. The Diocesan boundaries include the London boroughs north of the River Thames, between the River Lea to the east and the Borough of Hillingdon to the west, the County of Hertfordshire to the north and the Borough of Spelthorne in the south. Last year 136,000 people attended Mass each Sunday, in our 212 parish churches. Last year 90,000 students were educated in our 208 schools; and 870 social action projects were supported by some of the 40,000 volunteers who help in numerous ways in our churches week on week. Have a look at the report, it's interesting reading - and if you happen to like numbers, pie charts and graphs - there is plenty to look at!

CHRISTMAS CARD EARLY BIRDS: Firstly, the General Post Office are selling Christmas stamps based on stained glass nativity scenes; just ask for them when you buy. Secondly, with current restrictions, we will not have a Christmas card box at the back of church this year. Please, therefore do not bring in cards to leave for other parishioners. Thank you for your understanding.

THE PASSAGE works with people who are street homeless or in housing crisis this winter. They support clients to end their homelessness, address mental or physical health needs and find accommodation and employment. From Tues 1st Dec– Tues 8th Dec, they will be raising funds through the **BIG GIVE**. Any donation online will be matched, which doubles your donation and doubles your impact. Please help if you possibly can, online at <https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>

INDEPENDENT FAITH ENGAGEMENT REVIEW: The Government would like to hear from you. The questionnaire is rather hefty and takes about half an hour to complete. But, if you want to help inform future government policy, do so here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHOM WE ARE NOT REACHING? Maybe an elderly person who lives alone and does not have the internet? Someone who is shielding with little family support who cannot get to Mass? Someone whom we can simply call to keep in touch? Please do get in touch with us on: 01932 563116 if you feel there is someone who needs support. Thank you.

CAN YOU CONSIDER a Standing Order to help support SJF? This is a much simpler way, of supporting us. It means you won't need that Sunday scramble for cash, and once set up, you can forget about it! All you need to do is fill in a form, return it to us & let us do the rest. Having less cash in the church is much safer for us all and as would seem to be the case, more hygienic. Forms are available in church and also online at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/standing-order-forms/> Thank you.

A CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING (for all to say)

Lord God, we praise you for the light of creation – sun, moon and stars; we praise you for the light of Israel – Law, Prophets and Scripture; we praise you for Jesus Christ our everlasting light. As we light our tree, may our hearts be filled with joy, and may all who delight in this tree be brought to the light of knowledge and the joy of Salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Peter Pollard, Joan Colnbrook

ANNIVERSARIES THIS DECEMBER

Lynn-Marie Szczelkun, Herbert Bishop, James Loftus, Dominic Dyer, Alice Cane, Maurice Dodd, Robert Tams, Terry Ryan, Francis Curley, Lillian Maloney, John Cunningham, Sheila Barrett, Daniel Hodgson, Wilbert West-Watson, Alan South, Marina Schwartz, John Byrne, Sheila Passey, Mary McCarthy, Denis Miranda.