



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



Sun ☒ 13 Dec	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)</b>	6.00pm (Sat Vigil) 8.30am 10.30am	Brendan O' Connell RIP Alexander Swan - a private intention Patricia Baldock RIP
Mon 14 Dec	St John of the Cross Priest & Doctor	No Mass at SJF Today	
Tue 15 Dec	Advent Feria	9.30am	Germano Fernandez RIP
Wed 16 Dec	Advent Feria	9.30am	Departed souls of the Gonsalvez Family
Thur 17 Dec	Advent Feria	9.30am	Marta Fernandez & family in thanksgiving
Fri 18 Dec	Advent Feria	9.30am	Departed Souls of the Lobo Family
Sat 19 Dec	Advent Feria	10.00am	Cecil Rowntree RIP
Sun ☒ 20 Dec	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	6.00pm (Sat Vigil) 8.30am 10.30am	Peter Pollard & Jean Reynolds RIP Sheila Wheaton - Sick 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 sheppertonbookkeeper@rcdow.org.uk  
 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](http://www.sjfchurch.org.uk)**

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

**Charity No: 233699**



## Sunday 13th December 2020 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice!

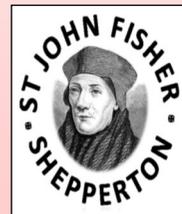
Sunday cycle  
Readings Year B  
Weekday readings  
Advent 3  
Divine Office  
Psalter Week 3



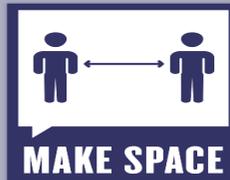
So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as a witness to speak for the light, by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the anointed one (Messiah in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring.

It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat - Mary's song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: God has called you, and he will not fail you. This is why, on this 'Gaudete' Sunday, we as God's people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST JOHN FISHER



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**WELCOME** to the Holy Mass today. This news letter gives you some information for the week ahead. There are also weekly sheets available for children called 'LOOK' to take away.



**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

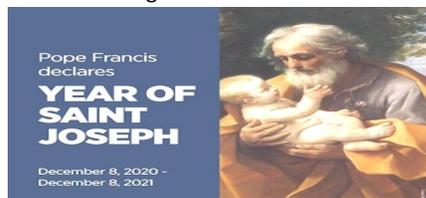
**CHRISTMAS WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR ...**

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. The balcony area which we have used as an overspill in previous years, will also be closed. 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 may not be able to accommodate everyone! Please consider attending a less busy Mass over the Christmas period, to be sure to get a seat more easily. Please take note of the time of Masses, as some start times will be different to previous years.

**O CHRISTMAS TREE, O CHRISTMAS TREE, HOW LOVELY ARE YOUR BRANCHES:**

Many thanks to Kerry at *Quality Fruits* in Shepperton who kindly

donated and delivered our Christmas Tree this year. It is huge and magnificent. Thanks to Jim and his helpers who enhanced its beauty with 3000 Christmas lights!



In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on 8th Dec. 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. The Holy Father wrote *Patris Corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood," by making an offering of himself in love, "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI. And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,"

emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience His truth and tenderness," – because "we know that God's truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us".

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father." Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he "cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption," as St John Paul II said, "and is truly a minister of salvation" ..... (to be continued)

**MORE DETAILS ON VACCINATION** The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have issued a statement, in light of the tremendous news, of approval for a vaccine. You can read the statement here: [Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk)

Briefly they state: "Each of us has a duty to protect others from infection with its danger of serious illness, and for some, death. A vaccine is the most effective way to achieve this unless one decides to self-isolate. At present, debate concerns the use of the vaccines developed by *Pfizer & BioNTech, Moderna, and Astra Zeneca*. Some have questioned the use of the Astra Zeneca vaccine since it has been developed from cell-lines originating from the cells of an aborted foetus in 1983.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy of Life have expressed the view that one may in good conscience and for a grave reason receive a vaccine sourced in this way, provided that there is a sufficient moral distance between the present administration of the vaccine and the original wrongful action. In the COVID-19 pandemic, we judge that this grave reason exists and that one does not sin by receiving the vaccine.

Both the *Pfizer & BioNTech* and *Moderna* vaccines have a different source since they are mRNA-based vaccines. On 2 December 2020, the *Pfizer & BioNTech* vaccine was approved for use in the UK. Each Catholic must educate his or her conscience on this matter and decide what to do, also bearing in mind that a vaccine must be safe, effective, and universally available, especially to the poor of the world. Catholics may in good conscience receive

any of these vaccines for the good of others and themselves..."

The full statement is available online or a paper copy can be sought from Fr Shaun.

**WHY WE SHOULD BOTHER:** Thank you to all who have returned Parish Registration Forms so far and with such positivity. We have had a steady stream of forms returned with offers of support and help. We have had just one parishioner write in negative terms. So why should we be bothered with registering at all? Throughout life we fill in membership forms for all manner of things. It should surely be a joyous thing to want to be listed as a member of the church community which loves the Lord and expresses that love with joy and with support for one another? There is no obligation on anyone whatsoever to register, to update their details, but to do so assists your parish church in a very small way, to be more efficient, so we can keep in touch with you and plan for our future. If you can support us in this simple task, you can do so online via our microsite: [St John Fisher Online Registration 2020 V2 \(rcdow.org.uk\)](https://www.stjohnfisher.org.uk) Paper copies are also available from the church.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Current Covid restrictions, do not allow us to have a Christmas card box at the back of church this year. Please do not bring in cards to leave for other parishioners, or put cards for parishioners through the letterbox of the Presbytery. Thank you for helping to keep our SJF Covid Secure.

**WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK 2021** is now available from the Repository £4.50p

**PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Norman Parsons, 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.

**ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD**