



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



Sun ✘ 24 Jan	3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (OF THE WORD OF GOD)	6.00pm (Sat Vigil) 8.30am 10.30am	Emily Theobalds RIP Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish For all who are sick with Covid & HIV
Mon 25 Jan	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE	<i>No Mass at SJF - Fr Shaun off duty</i>	
Tues 26 Jan	Ss. Timothy & Titus, Bishops	Mass will be offered privately	Tony Hill RIP
Wed 27 Jan	Feria (HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY)	9.30am	Reg Day RIP
Thur 28 Jan	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor	Mass will be offered privately	In thanksgiving for the Emmanuel Family
Fri 29 Jan	Feria	Mass will be offered privately	Sue Fielding – Sick
Sat 30 Jan	The Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	Mass will be offered privately	Pro Populo for the people of the parish
Sun ✘ 31 Jan	4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY)	6.00pm (Sat Vigil) 8.30am 10.30am	Dennis Hooper RIP & Dorothy Hooper RIP Monique & Robert Kemlin RIP Kathleen Montgomery RIP

Holy Rosary Prayers: currently offered in private. **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 January: Human Fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another and open to all.

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

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

**St John Fisher Church is, with the whole Diocese of Westminster, a registered charity.
 Our registered charity number is: 233699**



**Sunday 24th January 2021
3RD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday readings
Year 1
Divine Office
Psalter Week 3



**HOLY MASS
THIS SUNDAY**

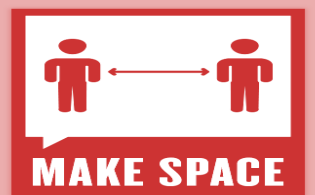
"Repent and believe
the good news!"

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
OF ST JOHN FISHER**

Where does Jesus begin his ministry? Where John the Baptist left off - preaching a message of repentance, of change, to welcome the new Kingdom of God. There is a simplicity about this message, which is not compromised by anything – today's Gospel has these simple words from Jesus, and then the story of his calling more disciples to follow him and share in the work of spreading this message. Repentance has had something of a bad press - we tend to think of it as an old-fashioned concept. But every age needs to hear this call: to look at what we do and say and assume, and realise that there are such things as right and wrong, and that sometimes we follow the wrong path. To follow Jesus, and to accept the Kingdom of God, demands that we make a radical choice, which might well change our lives.



Ever living God, we long for your presence and we thirst for your Word. Let your sacred scriptures be a source of spiritual growth and strength for us, so that we may know your truth, grow in love for you, and follow your way more faithfully. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.



WELCOME TO HOLY MASS AT SJF. This weekend we celebrate the Word of God and his presence with us in the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, writes about instituting this Sunday as the Word of God here: 'Aperiuit Illis' http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html



Last year, parishioners brought to Mass their Holy Bibles to be blessed during the liturgy. This year, think about creating a **BIBLE CORNER FOR THE FAMILY:** Many of our children will be used to prayer

corners in their school classrooms. During this lockdown, enlist their help to create a Bible Corner. This should be a special place, prominent and visible and dedicated to enthroning the Sacred Scriptures in the family home. It generally consists of a table or shelf decorated with a cloth, a candle, flowers, crucifix, a rosary and art. However, the Bible should have a prominent and central position. It should be a suitable place for the family to gather for daily prayer. The Aim of a Bible Corner is to have a constant reminder of God's presence in his Word and family and as a constant invitation to take and read God's word.

ST MARK'S GOSPEL. Most of the Sunday Gospel readings in this liturgical year (B) come from St Mark. St. Jerome in the 5th century (in his Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew) associated each Evangelist with one of the living creatures: Matthew is the Man; Mark is the Lion; Luke is the Calf and John is the Eagle. Why is Saint Mark represented by a winged lion? In early times, it was believed that a young lion was born dead, but came to life by the breath, the tongue and the roaring of its sire. Mark opens his Gospel with the mission of John the Baptist, "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." The Gospel closes with the resurrection, the ultimate revelation of Christ's power; the imagery of the lion and new life comes full circle. The lion is also a symbol of royalty, royal dignity or power – an appropriate symbol for the Son of God.

ST MARK'S GOSPEL POSTERS: Download a free 'Fish with Mark' poster to discover highlights of this Gospel in a creative and fun way. <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/bible-basics/about-the-bible/st-marks-gospel/st-marks-gospel-posters/>

ST MARK'S GOSPEL DAY-BY-DAY READING PLAN: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/bible-basics/about-the-bible/st-marks-gospel/st-marks-gospel-day-by-day/>

* * *

UPDATE - GOING LIVE! Last week we were able to give you the great news that a fellow Catholic (though not a parishioner here), who supports our mission, made a large gift donation to SJF. This is specifically to pay for the cost of equipment and installation, to enable us to live stream the Holy Mass on the internet. We are still waiting to hear news, about the date of installation, but this is really great news for parishioners and for all who are shielding. The live streaming of Masses will be via a link on *YouTube*, where we will also have our own channel page. It will also be possible, from this page, to access the weekly Newsletter, our websites, Parish Registration forms and a link to support SJF parish. More details next week.

**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
(For those not able to receive Holy Communion)**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18th-25th January, the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity ends on Monday. Please pray for our brothers and sisters, in other Christian communities, especially those in Shepperton and the surrounding areas. We pray that one day we may be one Church, united in the Sacraments and in the Word of God.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: The 27th January is the day for everyone to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and the millions of people killed under Nazi Persecution,

and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. 27th January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. On HMD, we all have a role to play to ensure that we learn the lessons of the past, to create a safer, better future. The theme for HMD 2021 is 'Be the light in the darkness'. It encourages us to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities lit the darkness before, during, and after genocide.

HOW WE ARE DOING: Annual Accounts 2020 – Last January we could not have predicted the challenges we would all have to face in 2020. Thanks to the outstanding generosity of our parishioners and friends, and the careful stewardship of Fr Shaun and the Finance Committee, parish finances are holding up. Our Annual Financial Return has been submitted for scrutiny by the diocese and auditors. Here are a few of the provisional highlights:

Income: Our offertory income fell by only 18.3% over the year with many parishioners making up lost contributions when Masses resumed.

Our parish hall income was down by 74% from last year (with associated cleaning costs also down by 67.5%). This year we received 2 Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme refunds of £2000 each (2018/19 as well as 2019/20) and £12,795 from the main Gift Aid Claim which is fantastic.

Overall, our income was down by 33.5% from last year, but do remember we received sizeable one-off grants and unusually high fund-raising amounts last year.

Expenses: Our annual non-clergy salary bill, although stable, was offset to the tune of nearly 50% by Furlough Grant Payments paid by the end of the year.

Included in costs were the site survey for which we received a grant last year. We also had essential, but expensive repairs required to the church during lockdown. Almost all other costs, apart from utilities, fell, and total expenditure was down by 29.3%.

(Our 2020 annual insurance payment has been deferred until this quarter and will inflate next year's expenses.)

Thank you to all of you for your donations and prayers and practical support throughout

2020. Thank you to those who have switched to Standing Orders which are up by 17.2% on last year and comprised more than 2/3 of all our Planned Giving. This is very much appreciated as it simplifies the banking and Gift Aid claims enormously. If there are any questions regarding your donations, or if you would like to switch to standing orders, order envelopes for next year or sign a gift aid declaration, please do not hesitate to email me. On behalf of Fr Shaun, the Finance Committee, Nathalie and myself, have a Blessed and Happy 2021. Traci Blundell, Bookkeeper.

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
Candlemas (The Presentation of the Lord) 2nd Feb
Ash Wednesday - 17th Feb
1st Sunday of Lent - 21st Feb
St Patrick - 17th March
St Joseph - 19th March
The Annunciation of the Lord - 25th Mar
Palm Sunday – beginning of Holy Week - 28th Mar
Maundy Thursday - 1st Apr
Good Friday - 2nd Apr
Holy Saturday - 3rd Apr
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection - 4th Apr

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: For the time being, please arrange this directly with Fr Shaun. Please be advised that it is not possible to hear confessions before Mass.

APOLOGIES: our toilets and hall remain closed at this time. Thank you for your understanding.

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Joao Rodrigues Teixeira,
Nora O'Donnell, Reg Day, Lorna Troop
(also for those who have died as a result of the pandemic)

ANNIVERSARIES THIS JANUARY

Ellen Mary Walsh, Anne Atfield, John Gregson,
Arthur Mitchell, Francis Kane,
Charles Butterworth, Michael Thompson,
Michael Tinsley, Margaret Anderson, Marina
Schwartz, Mario Coppi, Margaret Walker,
Marion Dollery, Robert Ekkel, Tony Hill.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD