



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



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| 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 |
| Mon 01 Feb | Feria | <i>No Mass at SJF - Fr Shaun off duty</i> | |
| Tues 02 Feb | THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS) | 9.30am | For the people of the parish |
| Wed 03 Feb | Ss. Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore. Archbishops of Canterbury. (Diocesan) | Mass will be offered privately | Lorna Troop RIP |
| Thur 04 Feb | Feria Requiem | Mass will be offered privately 1.00pm | For the people of the parish Funeral Mass for Joaquim Dos Santos Cavalheiro RIP |
| Fri 05 Feb | St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr | Mass will be offered privately | Reg Day RIP |
| Sat 06 Feb | St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs | Mass will be offered privately | For the people of Uganda and the tense political situation there |
| Sun ✕ 07 Feb | 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 6.00pm (Sat Vigil) 8.30am 10.30am | Jack & Margaret Carlton RIP People of the Parish Silvio Fernandez - Thanksgiving |

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 February: Violence against women: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Richards shaunrichards@rcdow.org.uk
 Administrator: Nathalie Hasted Currently on furlough
 Book keeper: Traci Blundell Currently on furlough
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 Parish Safeguarding: Katrina Lavery sheppertonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
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St John Fisher Church is, with the whole Diocese of Westminster, a registered charity.
Our registered charity number is: 233699



**Sunday 31st January 2021
4TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday readings
Year 1
Divine Office
Psalter Week 4



**HOLY MASS
THIS SUNDAY**
 "I know who you are:
the Holy One of God"

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
OF ST JOHN FISHER**

Where does authority come from? Why is one man regarded as a prophet, and another as a lunatic, and a third as a hypocrite? Jesus startles the crowds with a 'new teaching' today, but what amazes them so much is not the message, but the authority behind it: they are convinced because what he does somehow adds credibility to what he says. It's the old situation that we are all familiar with - we look through words to see the actions, which show us the real message. The scribes did not heal or work miracles, but simply talked about God. Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, but also shows the people what it is - a Kingdom where all that damages human happiness is abolished.

The other side to this is that we must listen to a prophet or teacher when they are backed by such authority; we may not "harden our hearts" and ignore the message when we have recognised that the messenger is sent by God. This is the hard part, because it demands that we too show, by our actions, that we have heard.



We pray for our Nation, for the NHS and for all essential and key workers who are answering the call of duty. May the Lord bless them and be their guide. We pray for all who are sick at this time, asking the Lord to bring healing in mind, body and spirit to all in need. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

WASH HANDS

COVER FACE

MAKE SPACE

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

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD falls this coming Tuesday. The Feast is also known as 'Candlemas' and commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, forty days after the birth of Jesus and the ritual presentation of Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. Candlemas comes from our solemn blessing of candles which are used in church and in our homes during the year. We hold these candles in our hands to honour Christ, who is the true light of the world. If you have any new candles at home which you would like to be blessed, just bring them with you to Mass on Tuesday at 9.30am. Usually the blessing of candles takes place at the back of the church. This year, due to social distancing the blessing will take place with the priest at the front of the church and the people will remain in their seats.

VACCINATION: It has been wonderful to hear that parishioners are starting to receive the Covid 19 vaccination and also that some of our medical professionals are working hard to deliver these jabs. Thank you from us all, you are doing a great work of charity. Whether you have received your jab or not, please stay safe and continue to follow the guidelines for the sake of everyone. Bishop John Sherrington has written to the clergy asking that we offer our church halls across the Diocese for possible use as Vaccination Centres. We immediately emailed our offer. However, our hall fulfils all of the criteria required, except one. Our hall is too small. This is a great pity, but the space has to be workable for the NHS.

If, however, you would like to consider being a volunteer for the NHS and you are not in a high risk category, you can check out the requirements via this link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/join-the-nhs-covid-19-vaccine-team/>

ASH WEDNESDAY... this year will, be rather different to previous years. The Vatican has issued special instructions regarding the distribution of ashes, mindful of the current health emergency. Instead of our foreheads being

marked with ash, the priest will sprinkle the ash directly over your head. This is common practice already in some other countries. Ordinarily we would have a morning and evening Mass. However, as most people are working from home, we shall have two Masses at 9.30am and 11.30am.

COMING TO MASS AT THIS TIME: In common with other Catholic churches in our Deanery, some of our weekday Masses are now said privately. Please see the timetable for weekly changes. All Mass intentions will be offered as usual, be that at the public Mass or when the Holy Mass is said in private. If you or a member of your household are vulnerable, clinically compromised, or shielding, it is important that you do not come. Additionally, if you have a cough, even if you think it's a common cold, please remain at home until you are fit.

Thank you for wearing a face covering, they are compulsory in our buildings at all times - even outside of the Mass. There is an update regarding face coverings: a see-through face visor or shield can be worn, but in addition to a face covering, not instead of one. This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth and therefore offer less protection for you and for others. Almost all of our children are wearing face coverings in SJF, this is brilliant - thank you, but a reminder, if your child is 11 years old or over, a face covering must be worn in the church. Thank you.

**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.

PLEASE PRAY: for Joaquim Dos Santos Cavalheiro RIP (and for his family), whose Funeral Mass will take place this coming week. If you hope to attend, it is important that you contact the family directly to let them know. This is because current Covid protocols only allow for up to 30 people to attend a funeral in church.

MANNA FOOD BANK Due to a growing number of requests for information, lists of current shortages can now be found on the Food Bank websites Do please check regularly for updates. The Food Bank serves the whole of Spelthorne. <https://www.mannafoodbank.co.uk> https://www.mannafoodbank.co.uk/latest_shortages <https://www.facebook.com/mannafoodbank.org.uk>

ASK YOUR MP TO SIGN: A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on foetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on foetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. The tool can be accessed by visiting this link: www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH: SJF relies (and thrives) on the support of its members. At this time it really helps if you can make your donations by standing order or direct bank payment – as this minimises cash handling and

helps us enormously in budgeting. The parish's bank details are as follows:
Account Name: WRCDT Shepperton
Sort Code: 40-05-20
Account Number: 01095382

Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference, to help our bookkeeper. If you're a taxpayer, why not Gift Aid your donation? The government will top up your gift by 25%, meaning a £20 offering becomes £25, at no extra cost to you. Just let us know and we'll get on to it.

If it is easier, you can also support us electronically here: [Donate to our Parish | Roman Catholic Church of St John Fisher \(rcdow.org.uk\)](https://www.rcdow.org.uk) Or by using the card reader in church if you are able to attend. Whatever way you help to support us, thank you!

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.

IF YOU ARE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL please tell the staff to register you as Roman Catholic on your patient records and that you would like the Catholic Chaplain to visit you. Because of the current restrictions, parish clergy are not allowed to visit the wards, but the Catholic hospital chaplain will see you, just ask at the nurses station

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Julia Reidy,
Joaquim Dos Santos Cavalheiro,
Joao Rodrigues Teixeira,
Nora O'Donnell, Reg Day, Lorna Troop

(and for all who have died as a result of the pandemic)

ANNIVERSARIES THIS FEBRUARY

Canon George Groves, Peter Madyslam,
Sarah Sharratt, Fr Michael Groarke, Mary Pitfield,
Fr Ron Aylward, Bernard Bunce, Nora Harris,
Raymond Restel, Anne Quinn, Terry Sharratt,
Brenda Jones, Patrick Harris, Barbara Hughes,
Stephen Marriage.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD