

THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun 11 Dec ✘	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	6.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pro Populo - for the people of this parish For Kevin & Laura Corneille RIP For deceased members of the Pepper, Medley and McDonnell families RIP
Mon 12 Dec	Advent feria	No Mass at SJF today	
Tue 13 Dec	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	Apologies No Mass at SJF today	
Wed 14 Dec	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	Mass at 9.30am	For Mary Frances & Sheila Doherty RIP
Thur 15 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Pauline Lynch RIP
Fri 16 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Louie & May McKeogh RIP
Sat 17 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 10.00am	For the intentions of Sheila Falconer
Sun 18 Dec ✘	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For Paddy Joe Reynolds RIP For the intentions of the Mullahey Family Pro Populo - for the people of this parish

✘ = Holy Day of Obligation

Holy Rosary Prayers: on Wednesdays following 9.30am Mass

Exposition and Benediction is on Friday morning, directly after the Mass.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession) Saturdays at 5.30pm, or on request

Prayer Request Box: at the back of the church. Prayers are offered during the praying of the Holy Rosary, on Wednesdays after the 9.30am Mass.

A Mass for your intentions: in thanksgiving, for a birthday, wedding anniversary or for someone who is ill or who has died, please contact the office. The diocesan recommendation for your offering is £10 or whatever you can afford. **Sponsoring the Blessed Sacrament Lamp** for your intentions is just £5 for a whole week.

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER

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To make a donation: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/donate/>

Registered Charity No: 233699



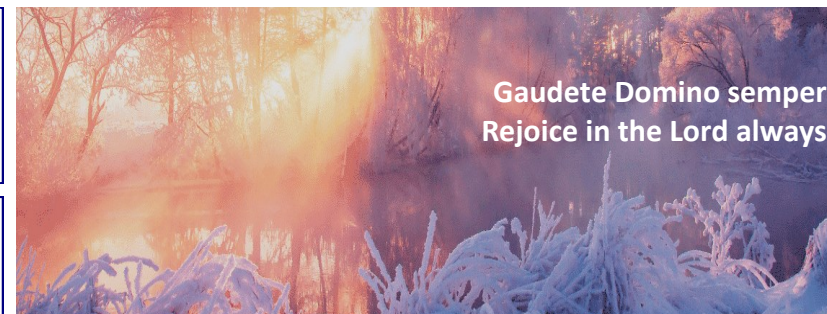
Sunday cycle
Readings Year A
Weekday readings

Advent 3
Divine Office
Psalter Week 3

ST JOHN FISHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Sunday 11th December 2022 WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



In many ways the readings for this Sunday are simply a continuation of last week. The Prophet Isaiah gives us more details about the work of the Messiah, and St Paul invites us to continue to be patient until the Lord's Coming. What is slightly different is the voice of John the Baptist this week: last week in St Matthew's Gospel, he was proclaiming with utter confidence that someone is coming. Now, in Matthew chapter 11, he asks Jesus from prison: Is it you?

For us, as we listen to these scriptures, we are being offered something very particular. The prophecies of Isaiah (and indeed the prophet John the Baptist) are pinned down firmly and securely in the person of Jesus, Son of Mary. In fact, Jesus himself, in his reply to John says as much: I am the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied.

Again we are invited to hold the images of the prophecies in our minds until Christmas, when we can look on the child in the manger and say, we know who this is: it is the promised Messiah; God who comes to save us!





WELCOME to St John Fisher, Shepperton this Advent. This weekly newsletter gives some information for the week ahead. If you are new to SJF church, you are very welcome! All Masses at SJF are live streamed on our YouTube Page.

A CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING - FOR WHEN YOU PUT UP YOUR TREE! 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 up 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.

NATIVITY: Prior to the pandemic, we had a Nativity drama at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. If you have children who would like to dress up and take part, please let Jean Johnston, one of our catechists, know this weekend. If you are unsure who Jean is let Fr Shaun know and he will pass on your details. The Vigil Mass takes place at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve, but children will need to arrive in good time to practise.

CONGRATULATIONS to Justin Webb, who will be Received into Full Communion in the Catholic Church at Mass on Sunday at 10.30am. Justin has been preparing since Easter and we join with his family in congratulating him on his journey of faith.

POPPY APPEAL THANKS: We raised £92.29p for this year's appeal. Thank you to Bernard Troop who organised our collection box. The District total raised was a tremendous £6,399.44p

SJF MAGAZINE - SPECIAL EDITION, OUT NOW This 'St Bernadette Special' is available in the entrance porch to take away. Many thanks to Katrina Lavery, who designed and edited the magazine and to parishioners who contributed in any way.

REFRESHMENTS are available after the 10.30am Sunday Mass. Do please join us, you are welcome.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE GREENO CENTRE the annual sign up, pledge board (returning following the pandemic), courtesy of Sally Dick is in the entrance porch for offers of food and gifts. If you are able to support this worthy event, please see the list to look at options. Thank you to those who have already signed up. Additionally, the Christmas day lunch is open to anyone who may be facing a difficult Christmas ahead. Traditionally the focus has been on single people, but this has been widened to also include couples and families who may be in need of companionship and cheer on Christmas Day. Please let Fr Shaun know as soon as possible, if you would like to go.

GREAT IDEA! Parishioners, Peter & Nene Wylde are collecting English Dictionaries and thesauruses and similar for a school district in the Nueva Ecija region of the Philippines. So please bring any usable (new or used) even mini, pocket or crossword, English learning books to a collection basket in the porch until the 10th January 2023, when they will take them to the school district themselves. If you wish them to be collected, please contact them directly on : petermnp@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These will be available from next week. They are an opportunity for you to make a Christmas gift, not to Fr Shaun, but to St John Fisher Church, in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received in this Holy place over the past year.

WARM HUB: We have been awarded a grant of £1000, from Caritas, Westminster, to kick start our Warm Hub project which we will begin in January. We'll be opening our church hall for local people to drop in. We will open on Thursdays during January, 10.00am-1.00pm This will provide a warm space for local people who may be struggling to keep their homes heated all the time. We hope to provide refreshments, soup, cake etc. If you think you might like to help with this, please contact the office, or speak with Fr Shaun directly. Thank you.

LITTLE CHURCH AT THE SUNDAY 10.30AM MASS is especially for youngsters who have not made their First Holy Communion i.e. children under the age of seven. Children start off in church and then return to sit with their parents.

TOILETS are available in the church hall. Please access them via the outside route. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN FISHER

SATURDAY 24TH DEC - CHRISTMAS EVE

Morning Mass of Advent 10.00am

Family Vigil Mass of Christmas 6.00pm

Carols and Readings begin at 9.30pm

Christmas Mass of the Night 10.00pm

SUNDAY 25TH DEC - CHRISTMAS DAY

Mass of the Nativity 8.30am & 10.30am

Wed 28th Dec Mass at 9.30am

SATURDAY 31ST DEC - NEW YEAR'S EVE

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

SUNDAY 1ST JAN - NEW YEAR'S DAY

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Morning Masses at 8.30am & 10.30am

Wed 4th Jan & Thurs 5th Jan Mass at 9.30am

FRIDAY 6TH JAN -THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Masses at 9.30am & 7.00pm

Sat 7th Jan Mass at 10.00am

SUNDAY 8TH JAN -THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat Eve Vigil Mass for Sunday at 6.00pm

Morning Masses at 8.30am & 10.30am

HOLY BAPTISM IS A JOYOUS SACRAMENT We greatly encourage Holy Baptism for babies of families who attend SJF and have made their spiritual home here. It is recommended that Holy Baptism takes place within baby's first year. Baptism leaflets explaining this Holy Sacrament, with important information regarding God parents are available in church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION 2023

Registration is now open for Baptised children in school year 3, whose families usually attend Mass here. In preparation for the First Holy Communion programme, children should know by heart, The Lord's Prayer and be able to make the sign of the cross. We look forward to receiving in the office, your completed registration forms ASAP.

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP - if you would like to sponsor the Blessed Sacrament Lamp, for a week during 2023, the diary is now open. To sponsor costs just £5. Just let the office know your preferred week and your intention.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(For those not receiving 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.

TOTAL COLLECTIONS AT MASSES LAST WEEK

Loose giving in the plate: £310. 64

Giving via the bank: £733 (weekly average/Oct)

Our weekend loose offertory collection continues for those who do not have a bank standing order or who do not use the card machine. Whatever way you support our work here at SJF, thanks, we couldn't do it without you.

OUR DAILY BREAD: Thank you if you are able to bring some non perishable food for our Food Bank Box. Your kind donations, which can be placed in the food collection box at the church entrance, are going directly to help local people via the Jubilee Food Bank. Thank you.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK 2023: Hot off the press, copies are available from the repository shop.

WESTMINSTER Diocesan Annual Report and Accounts are available to read here:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/about-us/>

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY

has been sponsored this week by Viona in thanksgiving for blessings received.

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

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, Lorna Troop, Reg Day, Fr Dominic Byrne, Gavin Boyle.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD