

THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun 26 Feb ☒	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	6.00pm Sat Eve Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For Cidalia Alexandre RIP For the people of this Parish For a private business intention
Mon 27 Feb	Lent feria	No Mass at SJF today	
Tues 28 Feb	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am	For the People of Ukraine 1st anniversary of War with Putin
Wed 01 Mar	ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary after Mass	For the intentions of Sara Sieburger
Thurs 02 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am Warm Hub 10.00 -11.30am Lent Group 7.30pm	For Baba Robigo RIP
Fri 03 Mar	Lent feria (Lent Fast Day)	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction after Mass Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	For parishioners who are sick
Sat 04 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 10.00am	For the people of Turkey & Syria
Sun 05 Mar ☒	2ND SUNDAY OF LENT	6.00pm Sat Eve Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For Sally & Douglas Dick - celebrating their 48th year, wedding anniversary For the people of this Parish

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.

☒ = Holy Day of Obligation

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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:
Lent
Divine Office:
Psalter Week 1

ST JOHN FISHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH



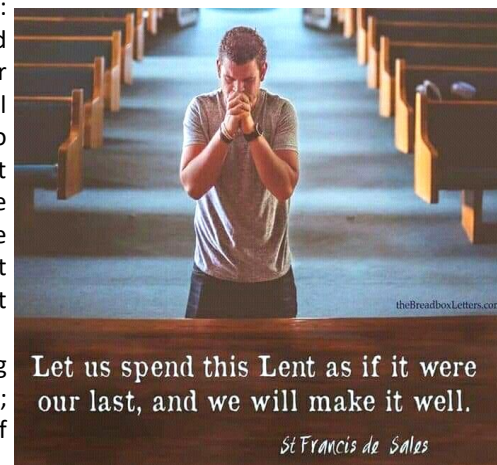
SUNDAY 26TH FEB 2023
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



In the cycle of Sunday readings, the oldest are those in Year A of Lent. These Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA):

those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin?

We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.



Let us spend this Lent as if it were our last, and we will make it well.

St Francis de Sales

Lent is not just about what we give up,
it's about who we become!



will be following the Sycamore film course: Wk 1 - The existence of God, Wk 2 - Who is Jesus? Wk 3 - The Holy Spirit, Wk 4 - The Church and Wk 5 - The gift of faith.

THIS LENT, do you feel called to offer the gift of time? Please speak to the parish priest, contact the parish office or fill in the form on line here: <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/parish-volunteering.php> to find out how you can help in the parish. Thank you!

THE THURSDAY HUB is open every Thursday in the church hall and will now continue into March from 10.00am until 11.30am. Do come along, it's a good opportunity to meet with others. It's absolutely free and it will be warm! Thank you to all who have helped out so far. A sign up sheet is available for volunteer helpers at the back of the church.

PATRICK CRONIN RIP: The date for the Funeral Mass for Patrick has now been set for 11.30am on Thursday 9th March. We continue to pray for the repose of dear Patrick's soul and we pray also for Shirley his wife and the whole family at this time.

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY IS ON: Friday 3rd March. In preparation, envelopes and prayer cards are available from this weekend.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FHC CLASS OF 2023 who made their First Reconciliation in church on Saturday. Very well done to you all.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE: Friday 3rd March at 10.30am at St Nicholas Church Shepperton. This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Taiwan. Refreshments after the service. All are welcome to attend this ecumenical service of prayer & worship.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2023 Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't

WELCOME to St John Fisher, Shepperton in this Holy Season of Lent. It's a season of fasting, praying and giving. The Church has now moved into a different, penitential mood, with the hanging of purple banners and a change in the Gospel acclamation. We save the *Alleluia*, the *Gloria*, the flowers and brighter priest vestments for the celebrations at Easter. During Lent we proclaim the Apostles' Creed, in place of the Nicene Creed. We begin our Lenten pilgrimage by examining our lives and by honestly looking at our practice of the faith. We are reminded that Lent is not just about what we give up, it's about what we take up and who we will become! One of the keys to a successful Lent is prayer. Lent gives us the opportunity to develop a daily prayer habit if we don't already have one. If you already have a prayer habit, consider adding to it, or change it, if your routine has become stale and dry.

THANK YOU to all who attended the Holy Mass here on Ash Wednesday, last week. The congregation numbers at both Masses, morning and evening, were very encouraging to see.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are a lovely Lenten tradition. In this devotion, we make the journey to Calvary with our Lord Jesus, focusing on how he suffered for us and his interactions with those he met on the way. The Stations will commence in church this Friday 3rd March at 7.00pm and then, each Friday of Lent. If you are looking for something different to do this Lent, come and join us in this quiet meditative encounter with the Lord.

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP ON THURSDAY DURING LENT: an evening get together & discussion, for all who would like to renew their faith. Beginning this week 2nd March at 7.30pm ending by 8.45/9.00pm. We will meet in the sacristy. Please let Fr Shaun know if you are interested, so that he can manage numbers. We

give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the poster on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

FOOD BANK DROP OFF: Thank you if you have been dropping off food donations. You have been extraordinarily generous. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by local people who are struggling at the moment

CAFOD SYRIA -TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our brothers and sisters affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

REFRESHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE after the 10.30am Sunday Mass - in the church hall. You will be most welcome. The hall for refreshments and access to the toilets is via the outside door, along the side of the church.

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
St Patrick -17th March
St Joseph - 20th March
The Annunciation of the Lord - 25th March
Palm Sunday – Holy Week commences 2nd April
Maundy Thursday - 6th April
Good Friday - 7th April
Holy Saturday - 8th April
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection - 9th April
St George - 24th April
First Holy Communion Mass - Sat 13th May

LITTLE CHURCH is each Sunday at the 10.30am Mass. Beginning in Church, the children go off for their own liturgy at the beginning of Mass. Children, we enjoy you being with us! Thank you to our church catechists who prepare for our little ones week by week.

CHILDREN'S MASS CARDS AND MISSALS are available at the back of the church to help our little ones to pray and to learn the Mass. Parents

please encourage your children to use these as you support them on their Christian journey.

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP - if you would like to sponsor the Blessed Sacrament Lamp, for a week, the diary is open. To sponsor costs just £5 for a whole week. Just let the office know your preferred week and your intention. Additionally, if you would like a Mass offered for your intentions, the diocesan guideline is £10 or whatever you can afford. All your offerings directly support the work of your church. Thank you.

TOTAL COLLECTIONS AT MASSES LAST WEEK
Loose giving in the plate: £337.75
Giving via the bank: £840.08 (weekly average/Jan)
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.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr Shaun your details if you wish to attend: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Thank you and congratulations.

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY**
is sponsored this week by Paul Robigo for his dear mother, Baba Robigo RIP

**PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
For Patrick Cronin RIP
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. Samuel William Elliott.
ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD