

THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun 19 Mar ☒	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	6.00pm Sat Eve Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For the people of this Parish For Daphne Argent - Birthday For Sir Joseph Perez RIP
Mon 20 Mar	ST JOSEPH PATRON OF THE DIOCESE	No Mass at SJF today	
Tues 21 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Fr Tom Quinn RIP (birthday)
Wed 22 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary after Mass	For the intentions of the Joseph Family
Thurs 23 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am Warm Hub 10.00 -11.30am Lent Group 7.30pm	For Patrick Barr (Birthday)
Fri 24 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction after Mass Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	For the people of Ukraine
Sat 25 Mar	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Mass at 10.00am	For the protection of all babies
Sun 26 Mar ☒	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	6.00pm Sat Eve Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For Dan Peiris RIP anniversary For the people of this Parish For Paul Byrne RIP

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

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:
Lent
Divine Office:
Psalter Week 4

ST JOHN FISHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH



SUNDAY 19TH MARCH 2023

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Laetare Sunday—Mothering Sunday



The readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent are about sight and blindness. The first reading is the story of the choosing of David as God's anointed one. Samuel is told that God does not see us as we do. The second reading is a reminder that we must live in the light, not in darkness. And in the Gospel is the story of the man born blind, whom Jesus cured.

Jesus uses saliva and dirt to heal the man, very ordinary things. By healing the blind man with a simple gesture, Jesus shows his divine power and authority over creation. The use of spit and dirt, which were considered unclean in Jewish culture, further emphasizes Jesus' ability to transform and sanctify all things.



What is Laetare Sunday?
The fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare means to rejoice

The day takes its name from the opening words of today's Mass:

"Laetare, Jerusalem"

"Rejoice, O Jerusalem"

Entrance Antiphon: Isaiah 66:10-11

ALSO KNOWN AS:

Mothering Sunday,
Refreshment Sunday,
Mid-Lent Sunday,
Mi-Carême,
Mediana or
Rose Sunday



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 continue 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!

MOTHERING SUNDAY is an ancient title given to this Sunday - midway through Lent. It is traditionally the day that the faithful would go to visit, go a mothering, to the church of their Baptism. Nowadays this weekend is also used as an occasion to give thanks for our mothers, living and departed. We wish all our mothers a blessing on this day. We pray also for the souls of our dear departed mothers.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY THANK YOU, to all who supported the Fast Day this year. The total raised is £440.95 This is tremendous and is double the amount raised in 2022. Thank you.



DON'T FORGET: The clocks spring forward one hour to British Summer Time next Sunday - 26th March.

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 are in church on Fridays during Lent at 7.00pm. 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. We will meet in the sacristy at 7.30pm and

conclude by 8.45/9.00pm We will be following the Sycamore film course: this coming Wk 4 - The gift of faith and Wk 5 - Finding true freedom.

THE THURSDAY HUB is open every Thursday in the church hall and will continue during 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!

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

DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER'S ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES from 21st to 28th July 2023, led by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited via the Tangney Tours portal at: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/westminster-lourdes> If you have previously indicated 'St Frai Pilgrim' on an Expression of Interest Form, or know of someone with significant medical and mobility needs who intends to come to Lourdes, contact the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173 immediately, so the Medical Team can look into assisting your requirements and care. Similarly, all individuals or groups intending to travel independently to join Westminster in Lourdes, by making their own travel and accommodation arrangement, should confirm this in writing to the Pilgrimage Office by 30th April 2023 and make arrangements to submit their Pilgrims' Levy of £35. Visit the Lourdes Pilgrimage web page <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173.

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 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

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: The Dioceses and Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark, and Westminster invite you to a celebration of the annual Mass for Migrants on Monday, 1st May 2023, 12:00, St Antony of Padua Church, Forest Gate, E7 9QB Find out more here:

<https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/migrants-mass/>

TOTAL COLLECTIONS AT MASSES LAST WEEK

Loose giving in the plate: £316.13

Giving via the bank: £663.83 (weekly average/Feb) 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.

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.

PARISH WEB: Our web site can be viewed here: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton>

MESSAGE FROM KEIRON O'SHEA RE: MENCAP

Could you help with our Mencap group ONE TO ONE? We run social evenings for adults with learning difficulties. We meet every Thursday at Burview Hall, Queens Road, Weybridge from 7.30pm to 9.00pm to enjoy games, activities and lots of chatting with our small group of young adults. If you would like to join our team of volunteers please contact Keiron on keiron.oshea52@gmail.com Thank you.

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 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.

FROM SHEPPERTON AND SUNBURY ROTARY

Maggie Hammond writes: I am writing on behalf of the Rotary to tell you about the 10 kilometre sponsored walk which we are organising on Sunday May 14th around the waterways of Shepperton. It is Sponsored by Shepperton Studios. Participants pay a £6 registration fee, and then seek their own sponsorship to raise money for their chosen charity. Please see poster in the church entrance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES VACANCY

The Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT), which incorporates six Diocese schools in our area, including St Richard Reynolds, needs an architect, surveyor or civil engineer to join its board of directors/trustees. If you would be able to help in that respect, ACAT, and its mission to enhance Catholic education, would benefit greatly from your insights and experience. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mike Metcalf, the Chair of the Board of ACAT, at m.metcalf@ascensioncat.org.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY

is sponsored this week in thanksgiving for the birth and wellbeing of baby Lauryn

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

SUSAN CONNERTY SMITH RIP

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MARCH

- Denis Ryan, E.J. Cane, Kathleen Sweet,
- Rose Ryan, Fr Charles Connor, John Ohlson,
- Victoria Roberts, Patricia Macklin,
- Mary O'Sullivan, James O'Sullivan, Lynn Guevara,
- Maureen Mitchell, Eileen Tams, Helen Bool, Brian Duffy, Matthew Sawyer, Jane Birmingham,
- C.V. Pepper, Mary Cotter, Joy McQuade