

THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

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
Mon 27 Mar	Lent feria	No Mass at SJF today	
Tues 28 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Cath Wehrle RIP
Wed 29 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary after Mass	For C. Lynn & Lorraine Babcock RIP
Thurs 30 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am Warm Hub 10.00 -11.30am Lent Group 7.30pm	For Andrew — a special intention
Fri 31 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction after Mass Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	For Gavril Pista RIP
Sat 01 Apr	Lent feria	Mass at 10.00am	For Noel Dowley RIP
Sun 02 Apr ✘	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD HOLY WEEK BEGINS	6.00pm Sat Eve Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For the people of this Parish For the people of this Parish 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

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER

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Parish Safeguarding: Katrina Lavery sheppertonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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To make a donation or to make an offering for a Mass intention go to:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/donate/>

We are a registered charity No: 233699



Sunday cycle
Readings Year A
Weekday readings:
Lent
Divine Office:
Psalter Week 1

**ST JOHN FISHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

SUNDAY 26TH MARCH 2023
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

When the Lord says: "I am going to open your graves," these words really are addressed to us, no matter how chilling they may sound. This is the promise of the resurrection we will explore at Easter, that just as Jesus died and rose again, so, because we are baptised in him, we will die and rise again. This is the doctrine of the Resurrection of the Body which we proclaim in the Creed. So in reading, do not stumble over those words of God: allow them to ring out confidently each time they occur. The promise of life from the grave is our greatest Christian hope.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Saint Paul teaches that those who live according to the flesh cannot please God, but those who live according to the Spirit have the Spirit of Christ within them and will have life. Paul declares that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, dwells within believers and gives life to their mortal bodies.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life: this statement by Jesus is at the centre of the Gospel of 'the raising of Lazarus'. To believe in Jesus, Messiah and Son of God, is already to have within oneself eternal life, which death cannot destroy.



**HOLY WEEK BEGINS
NEXT SUNDAY**



WELCOME to St John Fisher, Shepperton in this Holy Season of Lent. This newsletter 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 VEILING OF IMAGES & STATUES IN CHURCH

There is a significant change in the appearance of our church, from the 5th Sunday of Lent. The statues are now veiled and remain covered until the First Mass of Easter. Only the Stations of the Cross remain visible, for devotion. The veiling, with purple material makes us stop and ask - Why this emptiness? Why this sombre purple? The purpose of veiling is to help us to refocus, to create a wilderness in our lives which is free from distractions, even just for an hour at Mass. In this brief wilderness, we pray that we may discover a closeness with God, more vividly, more strongly and more perfectly than before.

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.

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!

WOULD YOU like to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III in our church on Coronation weekend? Would you be interested in leading a group or being part of a team to make it happen? Let us know in the office and we can get the ball rolling.



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023 We are currently inviting parishioners to join the Westminster Pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. There is a place for everyone on our pilgrimage, from young families, youth, adults, the elderly, frail and those with medical conditions. The dates are Friday 21st July – Friday 28th July. There is a register of interest sheet in the porch, if you would like more information please sign up or speak to Katrina (07921 409402) or Bernard (07802 268550).

LOURDES FUNDRAISERS: Marathon and Family Fun Day – Sunday 16th April. Come and walk or run alongside Fran, our Marathon runner. Fran will be completing 26 one-mile laps of Laleham Park... if you fancy completing a mile or more, please grab a sponsor form from Katrina (07921 40902). If you don't fancy the marathon, grab a picnic, and come and enjoy the company. Quiz Night – Friday 12th May The Lourdes team will be hosting a Quiz night on Friday 12th May. Tickets are £10. To sign up see the sheet in the porch. There will be a bar available, bring your own snacks. Doors open at 7.00pm, quiz starts at 7.30pm

TO ALL THOSE WHO GIFT AID OR WOULD LIKE TO: Remember, if you are a taxpayer, Gift Aid increases your kind donations to us by 25% at no cost to you. As the end of the Gift Aid Year draws closer, please remember to inform me as soon as possible if any of the following apply:

- You have changed your address or contact details and not informed us yet
- Your tax status has changed or you wish to discontinue gift aiding
- You are not already registered for Gift Aid but would like to be
- You now use the loose plate, but used to Gift Aid via our envelope scheme

Additionally, if you would like to receive your statement via email this year, please confirm your consent by emailing me at: sheppertonbookkeeper.org.uk from the email address we have on our records for you. Please use as the subject 'Please email my Gift Aid statement' and verify your full name and postcode in the body of the message. Thank you to all our parishioners who support us via Standing Order, Contactless, Gift Aid Scheme, Blue Envelopes, Loose plate and Online Donation. Traci

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

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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: £290.81
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.

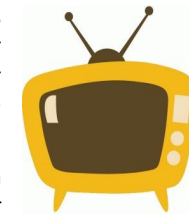
CHILDREN'S MASS CARDS AND MISSALS are available at the back of the church to help our little ones to pray and to learn the Mass. Parents please encourage your children to use these as you support them on their Christian journey.

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.



All Masses at SJF are live streamed. Via *YouTube*. Whilst live streaming cannot replace our physical presence at the Holy Mass, streaming offers a link with SJF for those who are incapacitated with ill health.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY

is sponsored this week for a private intention

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