

THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✘ 10 Dec	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pro Populo - for the people of our parish For Margaret Bigwood RIP (1st anniversary) For Patrick Cronin RIP (1st anniversary)
Mon 11 Dec	Advent feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 12 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Sarah Louise Fitz Harris
Wed 13 Dec	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary after Mass	For Patrick & family - a special intention
Thurs 14 Dec	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	Mass at 9.30am	For Sylvaine Emelie Chouard RIP
Fri 15 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction follows Mass	For Joan & Ron Colnbrook RIP
Sat 16 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 10.00am Sat Vigil Mass 6.00pm	For Margaret Cooke, who is unwell For Pauline Lynch RIP - Birthday
Sun ✘ 17 Dec	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pro Populo - for the people of our parish For Fr Vincent O'Toole RIP & Sheila Mary Hocton (Nee O'Toole) 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

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Richards shaunrichards@rcdow.org.uk

Administrator: Mandy Howick (Wed & Thurs mornings 9-1) shepperton@rcdow.org.uk

Book keeper: Traci Blundell (Monday) sheppertonbookkeeper@rcdow.org.uk

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Telephone: 01932 563116 website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton>

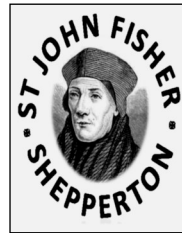
Parish Safeguarding: Katrina Lavery sheppertonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator 020 7798 9356

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 B
Weekday Readings
Advent 2

ST JOHN FISHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Sunday 10th December 2023 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Weekly Newsletter



In Isaiah's prophecy in the first reading for the 2nd Sunday of Advent, the people of Judah, exiled and longing for their homeland, are given a promise of return. This return is not just a physical journey but a spiritual realignment with God. The path back to their homeland symbolises a return to a life in harmony with God's will, a theme that resonates deeply in our own Advent journey.

Similarly, in the Gospel reading, St. John the Baptist uses language that echoes Isaiah's prophecy. He speaks not only to his contemporaries, but to us all, across the ages. Our exile is not physical but spiritual, caused by our sins. John's message is clear: repentance is the road back from this exile. As John prepares the way for Jesus, he invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Messiah.





WELCOME to St John Fisher, Shepperton, and to the 2nd Sunday of Advent. This newsletter gives some information for the week ahead. If you are new to SJF church, you are very welcome! All Masses here are live streamed, offering a valuable link with SJF, especially for those who are incapacitated through ill health - enabling them to be closer to us.

WE WELCOME Fr Antonio Ritaccio, Pastoral Director at Allen Hall Seminary, to celebrate Mass for us this weekend. Fr Shaun will be back on duty on Tuesday morning.

LOURDES GROUP: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Come and join us on the 15th December in the Church Hall for a Christmassy evening of live music and festive readings. Enjoy a complimentary glass of mulled wine and some delicious canapes and soak up the Christmas cheer. This heart-warming event is open to all, so please invite your friends and family. Tickets are £15 for adults and £5 for children.... We may even have a special visitor and a few surprises in store. For tickets contact Katrina on 07921 409402 or email at katrinalavery80@gmail.com.

THANK YOU to an anonymous parishioner who kindly covered the cost of our Christmas Advertisement in *Shepperton Matters*. If you happen to have a copy, you'll find the advertisement on page 25. We have some spare copies available, by the church entrance.

NEXT WEEKEND you are likely to see scaffolding enveloping the sides of the church. This is to allow for urgent roof repairs, which we hope will be completed in good time. The cost of these repairs will be a hefty £7,480 plus 20% VAT. We hope however, that this will cure the problem of the rain penetration into the church. The Masses and the good works of the Church will carry on regardless. It's business as usual.

OUR TELEPHONE BLUES are largely resolved, with just a few issues still to be ironed out. If you happen to phone us, you will hopefully find an improved system. Just a reminder, though, if you need a call back, please leave your phone number.

A DIOCESAN AUDIT of our accounts, systems and generally the way we function day to day, was carried out some months ago. We are pleased to report that we have a compliance rate of 97% which is really excellent news. Thank you to the Finance Committee and the individual functions each committee member has. Thanks also to our Counters, Bankers and to Traci our Parish Book Keeper and to Mandy our Office Administrator, all of whom assist Fr Shaun in the running of St John Fisher Church. You are all brilliant!

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY It's that time of the year when we start preparing for the short nativity story, for the 6.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. If your child would like to take part in acting or reading, please let Jean Johnston know asap. There is also a sign up sheet at the back of church.

A CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING (for use at home) 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 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.

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS you collected an amazing amount of used and old coins and bank notes. Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity in response to this initiative. We raised a terrific £1,107.50 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 57 children one good meal every school day for a whole year, because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.

LITTLE CHURCH AT THE 10.30AM 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 go into the hall, before returning to their parents.

CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY 24TH DEC - CHRISTMAS EVE

Vigil Mass for Sunday at 6.00pm on Sat night
Morning Masses of Advent at 8.30am & 10.30am

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS AT 6.00PM

Carols and Readings begin at 9.30pm
CHRISTMAS MASS DURING THE NIGHT AT 10.00PM

MONDAY 25TH DEC - CHRISTMAS DAY

MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD AT 8.30AM
MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD AT 10.30AM

Tues 26th Dec & Wed 27th Dec- No Masses
Thurs 28th Dec. Mass at 9.30am - The Holy Innocents
Fri 29th Dec Mass at 9.30am - St Thomas Becket
Sat 30th Dec Mass at 10.00am - 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

SATURDAY 30TH DEC

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
Vigil Mass for Sunday at 6.00pm

SUNDAY 31ST DEC - NEW YEAR'S EVE

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
Morning Masses at 8.30am & 10.30am

Mon 1st Jan to Sat 6th Jan - No morning Masses

SATURDAY 6TH JAN

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Vigil Mass for Sunday at 6.00pm

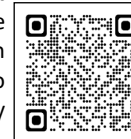
SUNDAY 7TH JAN

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Morning Masses at 8.30am & 10.30am

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AT THE GREENO CENTRE: the annual *pledge board* is in the church entrance for parishioners to sign up .your kind pledges There are lots of gaps still Can you make a small pledge? Have a look at the list of food stuffs needed. Thank you!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Registration for 2024. Forms are available at the back of the church for Baptised children in school year 3, whose families attend Mass here. In preparation for the programme, commencing Tuesday 9th January, children should know by heart, The Lord's Prayer and be able to make the sign of the cross. Thank you.

SPECIAL OFFER -THE DOUGH SHACK are running a special offer throughout December: free garlic bread when you spend £25. You will need to present a voucher when you collect your pizza. We have printed some vouchers and they can be found in the Church entrance. Please do support this small business as they are supporting us.



PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear Lord, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, to listen to your voice and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth this Christmas. Amen.

TOTAL COLLECTIONS AT MASSES LAST WEEK

Loose giving in the plate: £292.96 Giving via the bank or through the card machine: £801.67 per week - weekly average for October. 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, thank you. We seriously couldn't do all we do, without your support.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP burns by the Tabernacle. If you would like to sponsor the lamp for an intention it's just £5 for the whole week. Please contact Mandy in the office.

SWITCH OFF YOUR PHONE AND SWITCH ON YOUR HEART AND MIND TO THE POWER OF THE LORD

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY

has been sponsored this week for the intentions of Sherry Beach

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, Patrick Cronin, Maureen Greta Pearce.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD