



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT SJF

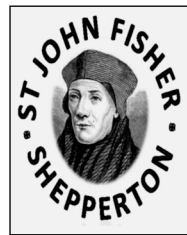
Sun ✘ 17 Dec	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)	6.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pauline Lynch RIP (Birthday) For the people of our parish For Fr Vincent O'Toole RIP & Sheila Mary Hocton (Nee O'Toole) RIP
Mon 18 Dec	Advent feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 19 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Robert & Eileen Tams RIP
Wed 20 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary after Mass	For Reg Day RIP (Birthday)
Thurs 21 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Madge Lambert RIP
Fri 22 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction follows Mass	For Nuala Doyle RIP
Sat 23 Dec	Advent feria	Mass at 10.00am Sat Vigil Mass 6.00pm	For Patrick Hanlon RIP & Bernadette Cimpoias RIP For Noel Brown RIP (85th Birthday)
Sun ✘ 24 Dec Morning	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For Frances Paul Joseph For the people of our parish
Sun ✘ 24 Dec Evening	CHRISTMAS EVE 	FAMILY VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS 6.00PM CAROLS & READINGS FROM 9.30PM CHRISTMAS MASS DURING THE NIGHT 10.00PM	Pro Populo - for the people of this parish Pro Populo - for the people of this parish
Mon ✘ 25th Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY 	MASS OF THE NATIVITY 8.30AM (Said) MASS OF THE NATIVITY 10.30AM (With carols)	Pro Populo - for the people of this parish Pro Populo - for the people of this parish

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



Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday Readings
18th -23rd
December

**ST JOHN FISHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH**



Sunday 17th December 2023
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Gaudete Sunday
- Weekly Newsletter -

Rejoice!

So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as a witness, to speak for the light, by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd, unknown to them, who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the anointed one (Messiah in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring.

It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat - Mary's song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: God has called you, and he will not fail you. This is why, on this 'Gaudete' Sunday, we, as God's people, rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.





WELCOME to St John Fisher, Shepperton, and to the 3rd 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.

SCAFFOLDING As you may have noticed, we have scaffolding on both sides of the church and repair work has begun. The roof repairs will cost our church a hefty £7,480 plus 20% VAT! Please do not park your car within the coned off area - this is to ensure you are kept safe. We hope the repairs will cure the problem of the rain penetration into the church. The Masses and the good works of the Church are carrying on regardless. It's business as usual.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS Many thanks to Kerry at Quality Fruits in Shepperton, who kindly donated and delivered our Christmas Trees this year. We are also very grateful for the help provided by Jim, Tim and Joe in erecting and dressing the trees and the outside festoon lights — thank you all.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY we continue with our preparations for the short Nativity story, for the 6.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. We have enough readers now but if your child would like to act, please sign up on the list at the back of the church. We have a good number of girls taking part but are still looking for more boys to take part.

THE SURPRISE — a wonderful play by GK Chesterton. Watch this Christmas on Sunday 24th December 3.30pm on Sky channel 586. Or, you can watch on line www.ewtn.co.uk

THE WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK for 2024 is now available in the Repository, priced £5.00

IMPORTANT ROTAS! Over Christmastide if you are signed up for the ministry of reading or are an extraordinary minister of the eucharist thank you! If however you are unable to make your commitment, please do swap with another on the rota and let us know, so that we don't have gaps.

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These will be available this weekend. 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.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES: Burns Supper Night Saturday 24th February... more information soon.

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.

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!

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.

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!

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

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.



WESTMINSTER Diocesan Annual Report and Accounts are available to read here: <https://rcdow.org.uk/about-us/>

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
St John Fisher Catholic Church, 15 Wood Road, Shepperton. TW17 0DH
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

FOOD BANK BOX: Your kind donations, can be placed in the food collection box at the church entrance, They go directly to help others locally via the Jubilee Food Bank. Please keep up the good work. Many thanks.

TOTAL COLLECTIONS AT MASSES LAST WEEK
Loose giving in the plate: £268.95 Giving via the bank or through the card machine: £966.83 per week - weekly average for November. 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 BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
has been sponsored this week by Pat, for her husband Noel Brown RIP

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. Margaret Bigwood.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD