

# THIS WEEK AT ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH

Sun ✘ 07 Jan	THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Sat Vigil Mass 6.00pm 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For Tony Hill RIP For the people of this parish For Barbara Cowin - special intentions
Mon 08 Jan	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 09 Jan	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Frances Reynolds RIP 2nd anniversary
Wed 10 Jan	Feria	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary after Mass	For John Ward - private intentions
Thurs 11 Jan	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	In thanksgiving - Ivo & Lynnet
Fri 12 Jan	Feria	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction follows Mass	For Sherry Beach
Sat 13 Jan	The Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	Mass at 10.00am	For Catherine Marshall RIP
Sun ✘ 14 Jan	2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sat Vigil Mass 6.00pm 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For the people of this parish For Lora & Kevin Corneille RIP For Jean –Claude Beunel 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](mailto:shaunrichards@rcdow.org.uk)

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

**Book keeper:** Traci Blundell (Monday) [sheppertonbookkeeper@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:sheppertonbookkeeper@rcdow.org.uk)

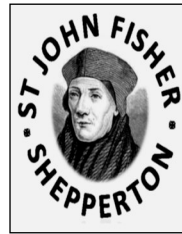
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Telephone: 01932 563116 website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton>

**Parish Safeguarding:** Katrina Lavery [sheppertonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:sheppertonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator** 020 7798 9356

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Sunday cycle  
Readings Year B  
Weekday Readings  
Ordinary Time  
Week 1 Year 2

ST JOHN FISHER  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



# Sunday 7th January 2024 THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - Weekly Newsletter -



**THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF OUR HOMES:** In celebration of the wise men entering the house where Jesus was, there is an ancient tradition of praying for blessings on our homes on or near Epiphany. All you need are the following prayers and a piece of blessed chalk from the church, to mark the frame of your door, with the traditional initials of the wise men (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar) and this year's date. Perhaps spend a moment this Sunday asking God to bless your home and to be with all members of your household.

*All make the Sign of the Cross.*

Head of Household: "Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

Reader: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

*Using chalk, write on the outside of your house, above or next to a doorway:*

**20 + C + M + B + 24**

*Each letter could be written by a different family member.*

*Then pray the following prayer:*

All: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**WELCOME** to St John Fisher, Shepperton. This newsletter gives some information for the week ahead. If you are new to SJF church, or if you happen to be visiting, or you are a returning Catholic after some time away, you are very welcome. It's good to have you with us. 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 ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME** Fr Joseph Thangaraj who will celebrate the 6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass and Fr Antonio Ritaccio from Allen Hall Seminary, who will cover the Sunday Masses at 8.30am and 10.30am. This is whilst Fr Shaun takes his Christmas leave.

**THANK YOU** for the many Christmas cards and gifts received from parishioners over the past days. Your kind words in cards and your generosity have been very humbling. Thank you. As I approach my fifth anniversary in January as your Parish Priest, I am blessed by such kindness.

**PANTOMIME 2024** This year's pantomime is almost ready, the team have been working tirelessly to put together a fantastic production for your enjoyment. Tickets for Hansel and Gretel are now on sale!! Performance dates are Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 3pm and 7.30pm, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 3pm and 7.30pm. Tickets can be booked through [sjf.panto.boxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sjf.panto.boxoffice@gmail.com) or Katrina 07921 409 402. Adults £15, Children (under 12) £5. All proceeds go to the Lourdes fund.

**THANK YOU...** to the dedicated army of angels who prepared the church for us all to enjoy this Christmas. Thank you to our sacristans, cleaners, laundry ladies, flower arrangers, church decorators, tree arrangers, festoon light hangers. Thank you also to our musicians and singers and Altar servers. Even in the busyness of your own home preparations, you have made time for the Lord and his Church. You are all wonderful!

**LITTLE CHURCH** at the 10.30am Mass is now back from this Sunday 7th January, The Epiphany of the Lord.

**GREAT NEWS ...** The National Lottery Community Fund has awarded, our Church Hall Refurbishment Project £19,465. This is brilliant news and will go a long way towards helping us to provide better facilities for community groups and church users. The architect's drawing will be available in the new year to look at. This project is the first of three phases for enhancing our buildings. The Diocese will, on our behalf, go out



to tender at the beginning of January. We hope to begin in the Spring. We shall need to raise additional funds, to support the project, so your ideas, inspiration and organisational skills will be much appreciated. Please let us know your ideas in the office.

**THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME BEGINS ON TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY.** This is the last call for registration. Registration is open for Baptised children in school year 3, whose families attend here. In preparation for the First Holy Communion programme, children should know by heart, The Lord's Prayer and be able to make the sign of the cross. We look forward to receiving completed registration forms in the office ASAP.

We are looking for two people to shadow Jean and Pir, so that they get to know the course, before taking over the following year. Teaching experience is not essential, just a keenness to learn and a desire to pass on the Catholic faith to our youngsters. If you are a parent of a child who has made their FHC here, you will know how important our catechists are and how important our FHC programme is to our families. Could you consider becoming a catechist/teacher yourself? If you would like to know more - please have a chat with Jean or Pir and Fr Shaun. Thank you.

**WARM HUB:** We hope to run a Warm Hub drop-in, in the hall again on Thursdays from 10.00am until 11.30am with additional time to set up and clear away. With your help we can be providing a warm space for any local people who may be struggling to keep their homes heated all the time. Can you help? Please let us know in the office. Thank you.

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

**THE SCAFFOLDING IS STILL HERE...** on both sides of the church. The repair work has begun, but progress is slow because many more of the tiles are broken and are no longer manufactured. The roofer had a real effort on his hands to source reclaimed tiles, but he is on to it! Just a reminder, 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 carry on as usual.

**HOLY BAPTISM IS A JOYOUS SACRAMENT** We greatly encourage Holy Baptism for babies of families who attend here. It is recommended that Holy Baptism takes place within baby's first year. Baptism leaflets explaining this Holy Sacrament, with important information regarding godparents are available from the church porch table.

**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**  
Loose giving in the plate—£247.86  
All Christmas Offerings: £ 1419.89 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.

**TO MAKE A DONATION** or to make an offering for a Mass intention go to:  
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/donate/>

**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.

**THE CHRISTMAS CRIB:** Offerings made at the Christmas Crib this year will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society, who help families in need. Thank you for your kindness.

**PLEASE DO SUPPORT THE DOUGH SHACK** if you can - they are supporting us! They are outside the church every Thursday from 5.00pm. You can pre-order on Thursdays, using the QR code (just capture it on your mobile phone) or call direct on 0203 488 3470 or just turn up.



**BE FAMILIAR...** with our church and church hall exit doors and routes. You may have been coming to SJF for many years or are at SJF for the first time. It's always a good idea to look around to see where your nearest exit route is, in the event that we ever need to evacuate our building at short notice. Thank you.

**A PRAYER FOR ISRAEL & GAZA**  
God of peace, bearer of hope,  
we seek your help for the peoples  
of the Middle East.  
Quiet the clamour of war  
and guide us towards peace.  
Where there is hatred and division  
sow seeds of calm and openness.  
Where there is destruction help us to  
rebuild. Where children are crying  
bring an end to tears.  
Shelter your peoples and protect them  
Guide them and keep them from harm.  
Show us how to break down the barriers  
of history and fear and breathe whispers  
of hope. Amen. *(Linda Jones /CAFOD)*

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP  
BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY**  
has been sponsored this week by Juan for  
his private intentions.

**PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED  
ANNIVERSARIES THIS JANUARY**  
Ellen Mary Walsh, Anne Atfield, John Gregson,  
Arthur Mitchell, Francis Kane,  
Charles Butterworth, Michael Thompson,  
Michael Tinsley, Margaret Anderson,  
Marina Schwartz, Mario Coppi,  
Margaret Walker, Marion Dollery, Robert Ekkel,  
Tony Hill, Frances Reynolds, Jarek Jedrzejowski.  
**ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD**