



HOLY WEEK AT SJF



Sun ☩ 24 March	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	6.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am 10.30am	Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish
Mon 25 March	Monday of Holy Week	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 26 March	Tuesday of Holy Week	Confessions 9.00am Mass at 9.30am	For John & Marion Desmond RIP
Wed 27 March	Spy Wednesday of Holy Week	Confessions 9.00am Mass at 9.30am	For Peter Rowntree RIP
Thurs 28 March	MAUNDY THURSDAY EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	No Morning Mass 8.00pm Confessions from 9pm Night Prayer at 10.20 Watch at the Altar of Repose ends 10.30pm	Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish
Fri 29 March <i>Day of fasting & abstinence</i>	GOOD FRIDAY THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	11.00am 3.00pm 7.00pm	Children's Stations of the Cross Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish Stations of the Cross
Sat 30 March <i>(Beginning after sunset)</i>	HOLY SATURDAY SEASON OF EASTER THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT	No Morning Mass 8.00pm	Church cleaning and decorating from 9.00am - Everyone welcome! Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish
Sun ☩ 31 March <i>British Summer Time</i>	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER

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 Parish Safeguarding: Katrina Lavery sheppertonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
 Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator 020 7798 9356
 We are a registered charity No: 233699
 TO MAKE A DONATION or to make an offering for a Mass intention go to:
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/donate/>



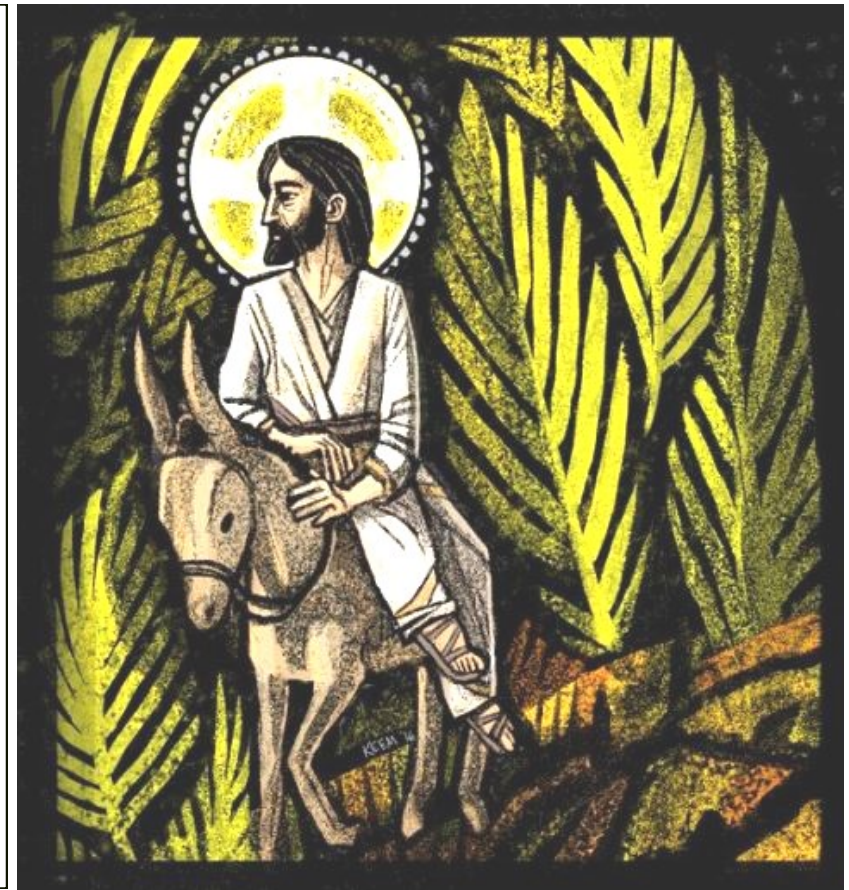
Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday readings:
for Holy Week
Divine Office:
Psalter Week 2

ST JOHN FISHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH



SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2024 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!**



☩ THIS IS HOLY WEEK ☩



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER Don't miss out! Please make it a top priority to come to SJF this Holy Week. Reserve some time to be with the Lord. Suspend errands and jobs around the house, especially on Good Friday. Drop everything and enter into the mystery of the faith. For Catholics, this is the most important time of the year. It is our opportunity to renew our Christian identity, to feed the soul, to stand proud and be counted. The great week begins with **PALM SUNDAY**, Jesus' triumphant arrival into Jerusalem - the Holy City. He came as a King, but he came in great humility, riding on a colt. The crowds welcomed the Lord, they waved palm branches and shouted "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord". A simple journey thus became a procession. At Holy Mass on this day, we join in with the first disciples, we bless palm crosses and welcome Jesus Christ as our King!

MAUNDY THURSDAY reminds us that the great Paschal Triduum has begun. On the night before he died, Jesus gathered his close friends together in an upper room in Jerusalem. Jesus washed their feet like a servant. He gave them a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you". And then he gave them the gift of himself: "This is my Body... this is my Blood". After Supper he went to watch and pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Our celebration, of the Lord's Supper, beginning **at 8.00pm** on Maundy Thursday, is based on these events. At the end of Holy Mass, the Blessed Sacrament of Jesus is taken in procession to the Altar of Repose. This is our Garden of Gethsemane. The Sacrament is placed there and a Watch of silent prayer is kept until 10.30pm. On this night we have the privileged opportunity of spending some time in prayer with the Lord himself. If you can't attend the Holy Mass, try to stop by, during the evening, to pray at the Altar of Repose, even for a short while. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), will also be available on this night.

ON GOOD FRIDAY, Jesus is condemned to death. He carried his cross to Calvary. He was crucified

and he died. Our liturgy, **beginning at 3.00pm** is not a funeral service. We recall the solemn events leading up to the death of Jesus. We read the Passion Gospel, we pray and we venerate the cross. We receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, reserved from the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the night before. Good Friday completes the work of Jesus Christ on earth. He cried out as he died: "It is accomplished". It is a cry of victory. We come to the liturgy on Good Friday out of love for him, who died out of love for us. The importance and solemnity of this day are demonstrated through our fasting & abstinence.

HOLY SATURDAY Throughout this day, Jesus' Body is in the tomb. This is the time to make our final preparations. From 9.00am onward we prepare the church for Easter, cleaning & decorating. We then await the First Mass of Easter. **The Vigil begins at 8.00pm outside the church.** The Holy Fire is blessed together with the new Easter (Paschal) candle. The procession into the darkened church begins and slowly, the light of Christ glows ever stronger, to dispel the darkness of the night. We hear the readings and we sing the psalms. We bless the waters of Easter and renew our Baptismal promises. And then finally, the Church erupts with joy. Bells ring out and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is proclaimed. We celebrate the Holy Mass on this most holy night of the year, because death is conquered, the gates of heaven have been thrown open to believers and hope is renewed.

EASTER SUNDAY, the Day of Resurrection. This is a day of joy & celebration in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Holy Mass is celebrated **at 8.30am and 10.30am.** The Christian hope which faith brings, is grounded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and what he means for us. We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future! Holy Week and Easter give us the opportunity to renew our faith and hope. Come to SJF this Holy Week, invite your families and friends and catch a glimpse of heaven.

OUR CHURCH is a friendly place, but it's easy to reach out to those we already know. Over Holy Week and Easter there may well be visitors and people returning after some time away. A smile or a gentle 'hello' can make all the difference and pointing out where Mass sheets are can be invaluable. Thank you.

HOW IS EASTER SUNDAY DETERMINED? Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday *after* the first full moon of the Spring equinox. So Easter in the Gregorian calendar in use today, always falls between 22nd March and the 25th April. You might have heard that our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters celebrate Easter at a different time? This is because they still use the Julian calendar, which calculates Passover and Easter to a different date.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Good Friday at 11.00am. Any children wishing to take part, please sign the list at the back of the church.

HOLY HARDWEAR: Our Repository Shop is stocked with Easter Cards, Walk With Me Eastertide Prayer Journals and a special Easter treat, Mrs B's organic local honey. All proceeds go to SJF. If you have a moment, take a look.

THURSDAY HUB is now on a break Thank you to our amazing helpers and cake makers. The Hub, thanks to a grant from Caritas, ran for 10 weeks, much longer than the previous year and was greatly enjoyed by those who attended.

MASS TIMES & LITURGIES during Holy Week vary from our usual times. Please check the back of this newsletter for full details.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 19TH - 26TH JULY Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available. There are also many volunteering opportunities. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by 30th April.

QUIZ NIGHT – FRIDAY 19TH APRIL The Lourdes annual Quiz night is fast approaching!! This year it will be held on Friday 19th April. Tickets are £10pp. To sign up see the sheet in the

porch. There will be a bar available but feel free to bring your own snacks. Doors open at 19.00, quiz starts at 19.30. Don't miss out on a great evening!

HOLY CONFIRMATION - CLASS OF 2024

Registration Forms are now available at the back of church, for young people in School Years 9 and 10, who attend Mass here and who wish to receive the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation.

TOTAL COLLECTIONS AT MASSES LAST WEEK

Loose giving in the collection plate: £259. 93p Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online: £846.96p per week - weekly average for February 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 EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES available from the back of the church contribute, in a small way, to the stipend (salary) of priests working at SJF throughout the year. They are not a personal gift, and are not given in addition to the annual stipend for Fr Shaun. Your support, as always is very much appreciated.

DON'T FORGET: The clocks spring forward one hour to British Summer Time next Sunday, Easter Sunday 31st March.



THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY

is sponsored this week for the people of this parish .

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Fr Michael Daley R.I.P
Terence Birchall RIP
Arthur (Ken) Johnson 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 Bermingham, C.V. Pepper, Mary Cotter, Joy McQuade.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD