THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 25 Aug	**21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	**6.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Frank Macken – RIP For Helen Diekmann – RIP (1st anniversary) Pro Populo for the people of the Parish
Mon 26 Aug	Feria *(Bank Holiday)*	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 27 Aug	St Monica	**No Mass SJF today**	
Wed 28 Aug	St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	Mass at 9.30am **Holy Rosary follows Mass**	This Mass is available for your intentions - to reserve, just ask at the office
Thurs 29 Aug	The Passion of St John the Baptist	Mass at 9.30am	This Mass is available for your intentions - to reserve, just ask at the office
Fri 30 Aug	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Marina Rasheed in thanksgiving
Sat 31 Aug	The Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	Mass at 10.00am	This Mass is available for your intentions - to reserve, just ask at the office
Sun ✠ 01 Sept	**22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	**6.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Maureen Henderson - in thanksgiving Pro Populo for the people of the Parish For Valentina & Enis with peace & gratitude from your Vietnamese family.

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 Holy Rosary, on Wednesdays after the 9.30am Mass. **✠ = Holy Day of Obligation**

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER
Parish Office: Telephone: 01932 563116 Email: shepperton@rcdow.org.uk
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
Address: St John Fisher Catholic Church, 15 Wood Road, Shepperton. TW17 0DH
website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton

Parish Safeguarding: Mandy Howick (until appointment is made) 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/

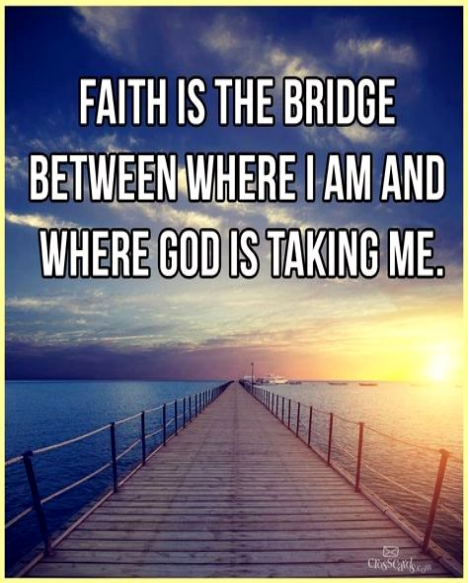
ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday cycle Readings Year B
Weekday Readings Year 2 - Wk 21
Divine Office Wk 1

Sunday 25th August 2024
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Weekly Newsletter

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
Parents sometimes use "reverse psychology" to encourage their children to make the right choices. That is what Joshua, the new leader of the Israelites, does in this reading. He wants the people to make a firm commitment to serve God alone. So he tells them that they can choose to serve other gods. However, he insists that he and his family will remain faithful to the one God who brought the Israelites out of slavery. By reminding the people of all God has done for them, Joshua guides the tribes of Israel to be faithful to the Lord. When we remember all that God has done for us, we too renew our faith in the God who saves us.

Second Reading: Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 5:21-32
If Saint Paul had any idea how much confusion his letter to the Ephesians might cause centuries after it was composed, he might have re-written it. His primary message is that the relationship between Christ and his Church is like a human marriage. Husbands and wives are "made into one," just as Christ and his Church are one body. Marriage partners are called by God to show mutual love, respect and care. In doing so, they reflect the love Jesus has for all who follow him. When husbands and wives choose to make sacrifices for each other and their children out of love, they are acting like Jesus, who sacrificed himself out of love, for his Church.



Gospel: John 6:60-69
What a sad day it would be, if some of our friends suddenly turned against us because of our religious beliefs. Today's gospel story relates how many of Jesus' disciples left him. They could not accept his teaching that he himself was the Bread of Life. They could not believe that his Body and Blood were the source of eternal life. So they turned their backs on him and returned to their old way of life. However, when Jesus asked the Twelve if they too would abandon him, Peter replied, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life." We too at times may find some of Jesus' teachings difficult. When that happens, we speak to him honestly in prayer and seek his help.

WELCOME TO MASS AT SJF
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US

ALL REGULAR MASSES AT SJF are live streamed via *YouTube* for those who are incapacitated by ill health, or away and want to keep up to date with SJF. Just go to *You Tube* and type in the search box:' St John Fisher Shepperton' And of course, we always look forward to seeing you at Mass in person.

THANK YOU to everyone who came along to the Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 12.00 noon on 15th August; it was good to see so many in our church at that time. Our thanks to Mgr. Jim Overton for celebrating the Mass for us. Thank you to anyone who helped in any way to make this such a special occasion, including those who served refreshments in the hall after Mass.

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK WITH YOU… I was fortunate to get away to Greece to visit Athens, Corinth and a day trip to visit the house of Our Lady in Ephesus in Turkey. It was wonderful to be able to walk in the footsteps of St Paul in Athens and Corinth and to pray the *Salve Regina* on your behalf in the House of our Blessed Mother. The only downside was succumbing to Covid last week for the second year in a row. I am now fully recovered. Enormous thanks to all our Sacristans and to Mandy and Traci in the office for their additional work during my annual leave.
Fr Shaun.

EXAMINATION RESULTS: To our young people who have received examination results recently, we hope that these were all you had hoped for. Remember that you are loved and supported by your families and our church family here too, regardless of your results.

SOME GOSPEL THOUGHTS: Failure, rejection and isolation: these are the themes of today's remarkable Gospel, but they are not all. In the face of them we see perseverance, fidelity and trust. Above all there is an adherence to the truth that is truly amazing.
Jesus speaks the truth to all who will listen, and if they find that truth "intolerable" they are free to leave, just as they are free to believe. No one who reads today's Gospel passage could accuse Jesus of being interested in fame or fortune or the simple accumulation of followers. He didn't play the 'numbers game'.
Even more amazing is that when his followers seem to be down to their lowest ebb, he turns to the Twelve and gives them freedom to go as well. Peter's reply, when he speaks of their belief, is the only answer that matters; it is spirit and life that reply, not the flesh, which has nothing to offer.

YOU ARE REALLY HELPING: Thank you for bringing in non perishable food for our FOOD BANK BOX, by the church entrance. Your contributions are going to local people who need some extra support at this time. Thank you for your ongoing kindness to those in need.

NEW TO ST JOHN FISHER OR NEED TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS? Please fill in a Parish Registration Form which you can find at the back of the church and online. Please feel free to drop it in to Mandy, our Parish Administrator in the office, if you are passing by. Many thanks.

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 including the requirement for Catholic godparents are available from the church porch table.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week,
in memory of Patrick Mulvany.
Eternal rest grant to him O Lord.

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
ANNIVERSARIES THIS AUGUST
Max Maksymiuw, Annie Reilly, Patricia Collins, James Patrick Dyer, Joan Delahunty, Alf Pitfield, James Sangster, Betty Mitchell, John Pegley, Michael Hayes, Fedor Jan Putter, Florence Kershaw, Liokadia Hughes, Frances Rosa Grant, Patricia Leale, Lt Col Kevin Ryan MBE William Roberts, Audrey Willson, Joan Heffernan, Anne Harris, Jake Harvey Latter, Fr Tom Quinn, Anna Gammond, Helen Diekmann.
ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD

LITTLE CHURCH is on a holiday break and will resume on Sunday 8th September. During the break Children's Mass sheets, Mass cards and Missals, will continue to be available for our youngsters. Pick them up from the back of the church.

IT'S A LOVELY GIFT TO HAVE A MASS OFFERED FOR YOUR INTENTIONS: To request a Mass intention, in thanksgiving, for a birthday, wedding anniversary, for someone who is ill or who has died, please contact Mandy in the office. (Wednesday and Thursday mornings). The diocesan recommendation for your offering is £10 or whatever you can afford. Important : if you are making a written request with an envelope posted or given to Fr Shaun at Mass, please add your name and contact details so we can advise when the Mass will be offered.

COLLECTIONS AT MASSES LAST WEEK Our weekend loose money offertory collection is really important and continues for those who do not use a bank standing order, use the card machine or make your offering on-line. Please assist the collectors, by passing the collection bags down the bench (pew) when handed to you. SJF is self supporting, with no other assistance from the Diocese (or government except for Gift Aid), Your kind donations support absolutely everything we do, so whatever way you support the good works here at SJF, thank you. We seriously couldn't do all we do, without you. Last weekend the combined loose money collections across the three Masses was £226.61. Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online averaged £1,025.83 per week during July. Thank you, you are brilliant!

LIKE PIZZA? YOU'LL LOVE THE DOUGH SHACK
They are outside the church every Thursday from 5.00pm. You can pre-order on Thursdays, using the QR code (capture it on your mobile phone) or call direct on 0203 488 3470 or just turn up.

REFRESHMENTS are available after the 10.30am Sunday Mass - in the church hall. You will be most welcome. The hall & access to the toilets is via the outside door, along the side of the church.

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE - OPEN EVENTS
For Admission to Year 7 in 2025 **Open Mornings:**
Thursday 26th September, 3rd Oct & 10th Oct
Tours from 8.45am, 9.00am and 9.15am
No appointment necessary **Open Evening:**
Thursday 26th September from 5.30pm -7.30pm
Headteacher Address at 5.45pm & 6.30pm
Sixth Form Open Evening: Admission to Year 12 in 2025 Wednesday 2nd Oct from 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Head of Sixth Form Evening Address at 6.30pm

IT'S A KINDNESS when Mass has ended to ensure that your seat area is left clean and tidy, ready for other parishioners coming to the next Mass. It's particularly helpful to lift the kneelers so they are not walked on and so others can get in and out of the benches easily. A waste bin is available for any rubbish at the entrance. Thank you for helping to look after our lovely Church, you are brilliant!

TABLE AMNESTY: From time to time parishioners have asked to borrow some of the long tables in used in the hall. If you still happen to have a borrowed table lurking in your garage or shed it would be great for us to get it back. There is a possibility of theses being refurbished rather than us buying new (we are checking costs). This being the case, it would be better for us to refurb' them all, at the same time. Thank you.

PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR PHONE AND SWITCH ON TO THE LORD, AND SEE THE POSSIBILITIES, THE LORD HAS IN MIND FOR YOUR LIFE

