THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 01 Dec	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **THE BIG GIVE WEEKEND**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Maureen Bernardinis RIP Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Winston Lennox Quashie RIP
Mon 02 Dec	Advent Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 03 Dec	St Francis Xavier, Priest	Mass at 9.30am	For David Andrews RIP
Wed 04 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary follows Mass	For James Gillies RIP
Thurs 05 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Gavin Boyle RIP
Fri 06 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction follows Mass	For Christine Cassar RIP
Sat 07 Dec	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	Mass at 10.00am	For the intentions of Zoe Thayne
Sun ✠ 08 Dec	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro populo - for the people of our parish Foe Aimee Diekmann RIP (anniversary) For Margaret Bigwood 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 4.15pm - 4.45pm or by arrangement.
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**
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Address: **St John Fisher Catholic Church, 15 Wood Road, Shepperton. TW17 0DH**
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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 1st December 2024
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Weekly Newsletter

Sunday cycle
Readings Year C
Weekday Readings
Advent 1
Divine Office Wk 1



The 1st Sunday of Advent. Year C. begins a season of preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and at the end of time. The themes focus on hope in God's promise, faithful waiting, and growing in love. We are reminded to live in holiness and be watchful for signs of Jesus' return. Through prayer and strength, we stay faithful as we prepare for His coming. This time helps us to get our hearts ready for Jesus by trusting in God, living with love, and staying alert to His presence.

READINGS FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16: "In those days, and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he will execute justice and righteousness in the land."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25: "To you, O Lord, I lift my soul."

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2: "Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your heart blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36: "… stay awake at all times praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."



WELCOME TO MASS AT SJF
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US AS WE CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF ADVENT

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' But as always, we look forward to seeing you in person.

THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT HAS BEGUN. Advent is a period of preparation for Christmas, extending over four Sundays, before the great celebration of the birth of Christ at Bethlehem. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to arrive," This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second, to the coming of Christ in our lives, through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to his Second Coming at the end of time.

DURING ADVENT … at the Holy Mass, The Gloria is omitted (with the exception of feast days). We save this beautiful song, sung by the angels in heaven, for the great celebration at Christmas. We also move to the new liturgical Year C for Sunday Mass readings and Year 1, for weekday Mass readings. From this Sunday the Catholic Churches in England, Wales and Scotland will be using the New Translation of the Lectionary. The readings for the Holy Mass will now come from the English Standard Version (Catholic Edition) of the Holy Bible (previously the Jerusalem Bible).
During this Holy season of preparing, why not spend some additional time in prayer, in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction is every Friday after the 9.30am Mass. The gentle Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) is available on Saturday evenings from 4.15pm – 4.45pm and by arrangement.

NEW TO ST JOHN FISHER - BAMBINELLI SUNDAY
A beautiful Advent Tradition, instituted by Pope St John Paul II during his Papacy is being continued in parishes around the world. Families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their Christmas Cribs at home, to be blessed here **at the 10.30am Sunday Mass on Sunday 15th December**. This will encourage our young children to make the connection between the Nativity set at home and the local church where they worship each weekend. *"It helps children and young people to prepare for Jesus."* (Pope Francis), Following the blessing, families are encouraged to take their 'Bambinelli' home, wrap it up and open it as a family on Christmas morning, where the youngest member places it in the crib. A gift of the presence of Christ in your home this Christmas. Remember the date for your diary .

THIS WEEKEND IS THE BIG GIVE WEEKEND
IT'S FOR YOU! Most of us have used the Church Hall at some point in the past, be that for First Holy Communion classes for our children, Confirmation, RCIA, Panto, other social events, Sunday refreshments or have been involved with other hall user groups - so now we need your help to secure the future of the hall for the next 30 years for our children and grandchildren.
Why? The cost of the hall renovation is beyond what was first envisaged. This is in part, due to the need to replace the electrical wiring which has been added onto over many years. Your kind support will help to get us closer to our final goal.
Where will your donations and fundraising go? Your donations will help us to add new energy-efficient lighting and a full electrical rewire of our hall to reduce our energy costs. You'll be helping us to provide a new entrance corridor from the church directly into the hall to improve safety and accessibility. You'll be helping to provide two new toilets and a fully accessible one, so all our users can comfortably use the space. Your donations will go towards the white goods in the new kitchen to facilitate community meals and events and you'll be helping towards baby-changing facilities for families, to make life just a little bit easier. Your generosity will also help us to provide an eco-friendly heating system for the hall and the church with two modern boilers instead of the current four, to further reduce our carbon footprint, address high running costs and provide more efficient heating. Redecoration and new storage will create a brighter and more practical space for all and of course, updated fire prevention measures will ensure the safety of all hall users. **How much?** The hall reno' will total £243,000. We have funds, church savings, grants, donations and fundraising amounts. If we can raise a minimum of £50,000 which is a big ask, we will be close to achieving our goal. This is why your church is asking for your support. Like me, I hope that you will think and pray about how you can help and support SJF church. On Friday we kick started the Big Give Weekend with the Beetle Drive - more on this and the recent Music Night next week. This Sunday after the 10.30am Mass in the Hall is the Big Beanz Challenge (see below). Thank you as always. Fr Shaun.

***'BIG BEANZ CHALLENGE' THIS SUNDAY** 1st December* in the hall at around 11.45am. Fr Shaun will be taking up the '*Big Beanz Challenge'* We will live stream the event to encourage online donations from further afield. You can see a `*Big Beanz Challenge*` page on our web site. and a super short video with Fr Shaun and George, the Labrador by capturing this QR code on your mobile phone camera or by going to go to:
Fr Shaun's Big Beanz Challenge – Roman Catholic Parish of Shepperton

CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW: 1st Prize, Harrods Hamper, 2nd Prize, Daines & Gray turkey (serves 8 -10). 3rd Prize, bottle of vintage port and we have a bonus 4th Prize, of a computer games package. Tickets are £5 for a book of five or £1 each, available at the end of all Masses. Counter foils and monies should be returned by Sat 14th Dec latest please. The Christmas Prize Draw will take place on Sunday 15th Dec. All proceeds will go towards the hall renovation. Thank you to our sellers, buyers and prize givers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025: Registration forms will be available from next weekend. The programme starts Tuesday 14th January 2025, 5.00 - 6.00pm and every Tuesday following, except half term and school Easter holidays. The programme has a duration of 14 weeks. In this time of preparation for the Sacraments, attendance throughout the whole programme and at Mass every week should be a priority over other activities. First Reconciliation (confession) will take place in church on Saturday 8th March at 12.00noon. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 10th May at 11.00am. To ensure all children begin at the same level, children should know by heart, the Our Father (Lord's Prayer) and the Hail Mary before classes begin.

LOURDES BIG TREE NIGHT STALL The Lourdes team have booked their stall for the Big Tree Night on the 11th Dec and are looking forward to getting festive with the rest of the Shepperton community. We are planning to run a Christmas Tombola with prizes such as bottles, chocolates, sweets, gifts….. anything festive. If you are able to donate something for our stall, please can you leave in the porch in the box marked "Lourdes". Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and we hope to see you at Big Tree Night.

LITTLE CHURCH! Do please encourage your children to attend Little Church at the 10.30am Sunday Mass (maybe even go along with them).

LAST WEEKEND the combined loose money collections across the three Masses was £254.00 Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online throughout October averaged £988.96 As always, thank you.

THE DOUGH SHACK our weekly pizza van has moved from Thursdays to Wednesdays. They will be parked outside the Church from 5-8pm, every Wednesday. Please support them.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week by
Clarisse & Michael, in thanksgiving.

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