THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 15 Dec	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	5.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For Ainsley Godfrey RIP (4th Anniversary) Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Pauline Lynch RIP (Birthday)
Mon 16 Dec	Advent Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 17 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Martin Donovan RIP
Wed 18 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary follows Mass	For Lorna Troop RIP
Thurs 19 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For the intentions of Katrina Donovan & family who are bereaved
Fri 20 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction follows Mass	For David Andrews RIP
Sat 21 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 10.00am	For Nuala Doyle RIP & Kevin Doyle RIP
Sun ✠ 22 Dec	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	5.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Margaret Mescall RIP For Noel Brown 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**

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Parish Safeguarding: Mandy Howick (until appointment is made) **sheppertonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk**
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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 C
Weekday Readings
Advent 3
Divine Office Wk 3

Sunday 15th December 2024
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GAUDETE SUNDAY
Weekly Newsletter



This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice Sunday. This comes from the Entrance Antiphon and from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do - they must repent and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing, something which is hard and unrewarding. We might feel very comfortable with the status quo, it's working for us.

The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us. Happy Gaudete Sunday!

Advent Prayer

GOD OUR FATHER
HELP US KEEP WATCH
AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH
AS WE WAIT FOR THE COMING
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
WAKE US UP
AND FIND US READY
TO SERVE AND PRAISE HIM.
AMEN.



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.

THIS WEEKEND we welcome Canon Colin Davies who will be celebrating Mass for us this weekend. Fr Shaun will be back as usual on Tuesday morning 17th December.

THIS SUNDAY IS BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: at the 10.30am Mass, families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their Christmas Cribs at home, to be blessed here.

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. Thank you all.

THE WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK for 2025 is now available in the Repository, priced £5.50

IMPORTANT ROTAS! Over the forthcoming 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 at this extra busy time of the year. Thank you.

MANDY MOLLENTZE RIP: You may have heard through the grapevine that dear Mandy (Amanda), a faithful servant of the Lord, has died. Mandy was, up until her illness, a daily Mass attender here. We await details for her Funeral Mass at SJF. Please pray for Mandy's soul and keep Antoinette and the family in your prayers at this difficult time. "Go forth Christian soul, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, since the foundation of the world." Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE GREENO CENTRE: The Community Christmas Day Lunch is back again, its 34th Year. Thank you for your continuing support. The annual Pledge Board for vegetables, tombola and monetary donations is at the back of the church. We appreciate anything that you can contribute - please sign up if you possibly can.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW will take place after the 10.30am Sunday Mass this weekend. Thank you to all who bought tickets for the Draw. All proceeds will go towards the hall renovation. Thank you also, to our ticket sellers, prize givers and those who have taken time out to prepare ticket counterfoils for the Draw.

'THE BIG BEANZ CHALLENGE' You can see the film on the link below or scan the QR code. Just scroll down to the Live Stream button to view. To all who donated to the challenge, thank you for your support. The total raised is an amazing £2,781.00 Fr Shaun's Big Beanz Challenge – Roman Catholic Parish of Shepperton

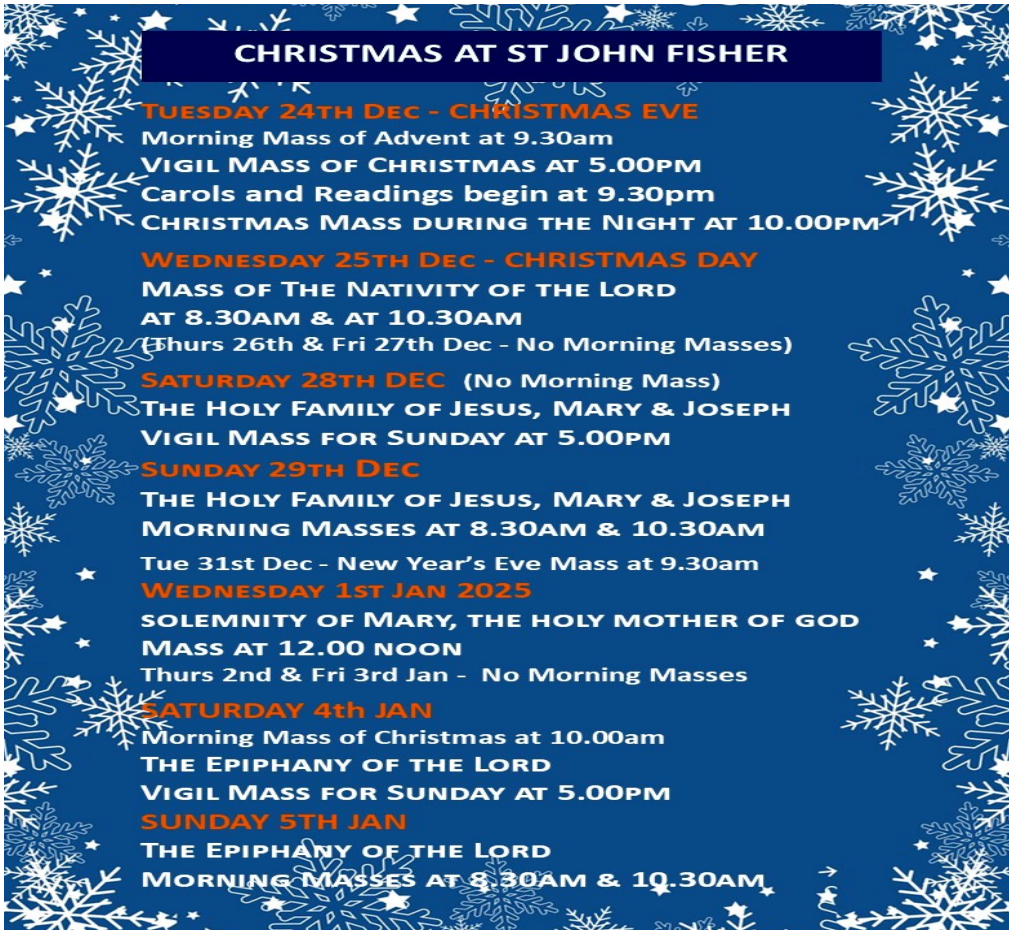


BIG GIVE WEEEKEND - THANK YOU, YOU ARE BRILLIANT! We still have money coming in, but we hope to give you a total figure next week. All Big Give donations and the Big Beanz Challenge donations will go towards our hall renovation.

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

REFRESHMENTS are available as usual in the hall after the Sunday 10.30am Mass. Come and join us.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025: Registration forms are available for children who worship at SJF. Closing date for registration is Christmas Eve. The programme starts Tuesday 14th January 2025 with a duration of 14 weeks. Attendance every week and at Mass should be the 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. It's important to ensure our children begin at the same level. Children should know therefore how to make the sign of the cross, know by heart, the Our Father (Lord's Prayer) and know the Hail Mary before classes begin.



LAST WEEKEND the combined loose money collections across the three Masses was £249.26 Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online throughout November averaged £972.08per week. As always, thank you.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week for Shirley,
a private intention

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

FOR MANDY MOLLENTZE RIP

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