THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

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 (86th Birthday)
Mon 23 Dec	Advent Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 24 Dec	Advent Feria (morning)	Mass at 9.30am	For Jimmy Mullahey (recently departed)
Night ✠	**Christmas Eve**  **Merry Christmas!**	**Family Vigil Mass of Christmas 5.00pm** **Carols & readings from 9.30pm** **Christmas Mass during the Night 10.00pm**	Pro populo - for the people of our parish Pro populo - for the people of our parish
Wed ✠ 25 Dec	**Christmas Day** 	**Mass of the Nativity 8.30am (said)** **Mass of the Nativity 10.30am (with carols)**	For David Andrews RIP Pro populo - for the people of our parish
Thurs 26 Dec	ST STEPHEN The First Martyr	No Mass at SJF	
Fri 27 Dec	ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist	No Mass at SJF	
Sat 28 Dec	The Holy Innocents Martyrs	No Morning Mass	
Sun ✠ 29 Dec	**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Denis Miranda RIP Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Vincent O'Toole RIP

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

Sunday cycle
Readings Year C
Weekday Readings
Advent 4
Divine Office Wk 4

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 22nd December 2024
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Weekly Newsletter



The 4th Sunday of Advent reminds us to look for signs of God's presence in our lives. The Visitation, where Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, is full of joy and signs. Elizabeth recognizes Jesus when her baby son, John, leaps in her womb. This moment shows us the importance of being open to the signs of God's presence in everyday moments.

Elizabeth could have dismissed her baby's movement as just another kick. Instead, she saw this as a sign of something bigger. Elizabeth recognized it as a moment of grace and the closeness of redemption.

Jesus came to us as a baby in Bethlehem, but he also comes to us in our daily lives. If we only see him in the nativity scene, we will miss many moments of grace. So, we are called to ready ourselves to encounter the Lord at any point and most especially through our prayers and the Holy Sacraments.

Like Elizabeth and Mary, we prepare our hearts for Jesus, to experience the joy of his coming, not just at Christmas, but every day.

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 for those who are incapacitated and unable to get to Mass If you are unwell, just go to *You Tube* and type in the search box: 'St John Fisher Shepperton'. But as always we enjoy having you with us here in person.

GOING AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR? May God speed you on your journey. Return back safely and refreshed.

THANK YOU… to the dedicated army of angels who have been preparing 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!

AND THE CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW WINNERS ARE... 1st Prize - number 00440 - Nikki C.G
2nd Prize - number 001521 - Fred & Mary G
3rd prize - number 00362 - Berangere B
4th prize - number 001181 - Christine P
Congratulations to our winners and to all who supported the Prize Draw, through the buying or selling of tickets, to those who generously donated our prizes and to Jill who manged it all on our behalf. All proceeds will go towards our Hall Renovation. Thank you!

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.

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

MANDY MOLLENTZE RIP: The Funeral Mass for the repose of the soul of Mandy will take place on Friday 24th January at 11.30am. Please do pray for Mandy and keep Antoinette and the family in your prayers at this difficult time.

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 are still short of some items and 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.

YOU ARE BRILLIANT! The Big Give weekend raised £4819.75 - in addition to the amounts raised through the Beetle Drive and donations to the Big Beanz Challenge. To all who generously supported our church, thank you. We can only do the good stuff we do with your help. All Big Give donations will go towards our hall renovation.

LITTLE CHURCH IS NOW ON HOLIDAY… but will return on Sunday 5th January for The Epiphany of the Lord and the arrival of the three Kings! Have a great Christmas and remember to keep on saying your prayers to Jesus who loves you very much!

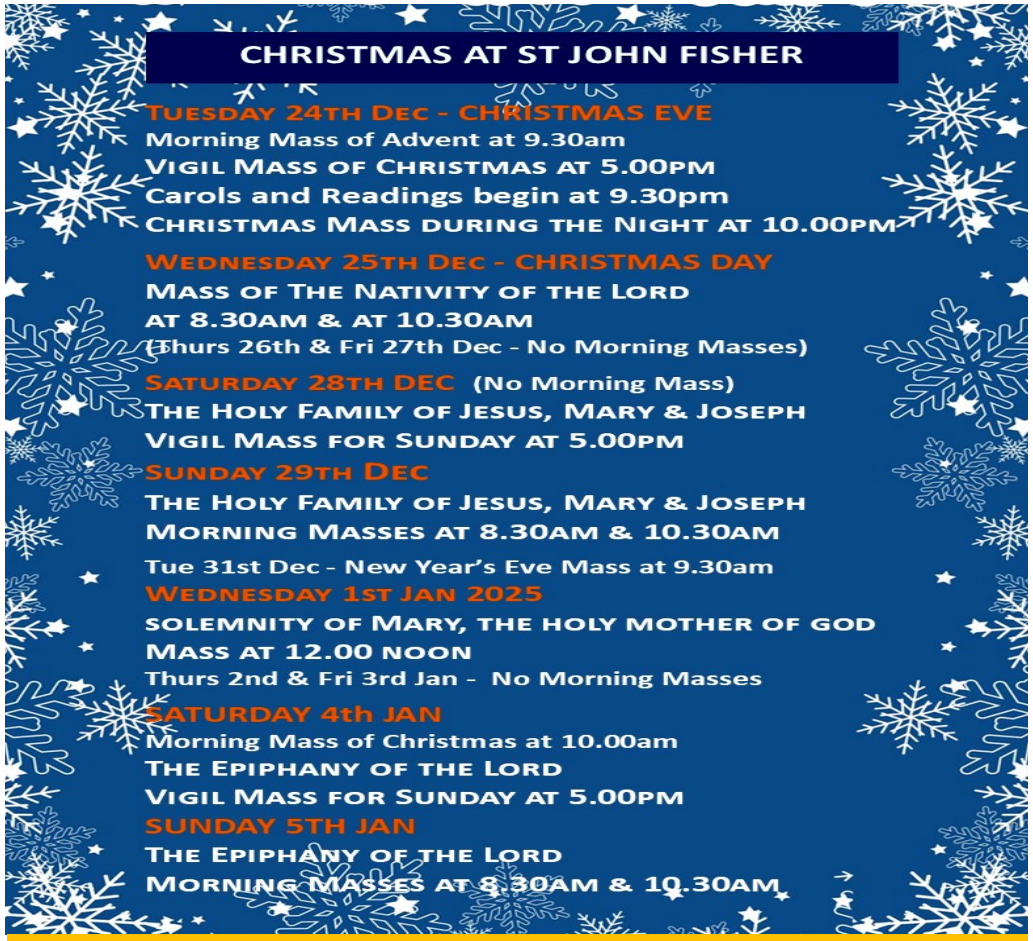
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025: Registration forms for children who worship at SJF should be returned by Christmas Eve. The programme starts Tuesday 14th January 2025 with a duration of 14 weeks. Attendance every week and at Mass should be the priority over other activities. First Reconciliation (confession) 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 £283.71 Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online throughout November averaged £972.08per week. As always, thank you.

YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS are NOT a personal gift to Fr Shaun, but go towards the annual stipend (salary), which he receives from the diocese.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week for
Noel Brown RIP

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



This Christmas, may the birth of the Saviour bring joy to your heart and peace to your life. Merry Christmas.