THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 12 Jan	**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Kevin & Laura Corneille RIP For Mario Coppi RIP
Mon 13 Jan	Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 14 Jan	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For a private Intention
Wed 15 Jan	Feria	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary follows Mass	In thanksgiving for son-in-law Justin
Thurs 16 Jan	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Jarek Jedrzejowski RIP
Fri 17 Jan	St Anthony, Abbot	Mass at 9.30am Exposition & Benediction follows Mass	For Lorna Troop RIP (Birthday)
Sat 18 Jan	Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday	Mass at 10.00am	For Emily Theobalds RIP (anniversary)
Sun ✠ 19 Jan	**2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Francis & Orlando - for healing. Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Shirley - a private intention

Holy Rosary Prayers: on Wednesdays following 9.30am Mass
Exposition and Benediction is usually 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
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 SHEPPERTON

Sunday cycle
Readings Year C
Weekday Year 1
Psalter Week 1

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Sunday 12th January 2025
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
- Weekly Newsletter -



It may seem strange, but today is a Christmas Feast. Not if we only think of Christmas in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the Feasts of The Holy Family and The Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or revealing of the Son of God. This manifestation was seen first by the shepherds and then the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all, as the fullness of all God's promises as God proclaims: 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he sends his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them, that we can see fully, the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem. As we come to the end of the Season of Christmas and look forward to hearing the Gospels in Ordinary Time, we do so, having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the beloved. Happy Feast Day!

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we recall our own Baptism and the promise of life we have gained through it. We pray that others too, may be given the opportunity to experience life in its fullness, both in this world and the next.

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.

THIS WEEKEND will be the last opportunity to visit the Christmas Crib. Do please take the opportunity to look at our beautiful crib, and maybe for a moment before it, offer a prayer. All Crib offerings (donations) that have been made will, as usual, be sent to the Catholic Children's Society, for their important work with children. Thank you for supporting the Society. Last weekend we celebrated the Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord and the arrival of the three Wise Men. Blessed chalk is still available today by the Crib for the Epiphany Blessing of Homes. The Rite for the blessing of your homes can be found on the front page of last week's Newsletter. Spare copies are available still in the porch.

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.

JOE DELAHUNTY RIP: The Funeral Mass for the repose of Joe's soul will take place on Friday 7th February at 1.00pm. Please do pray for Joe and his family at this difficult time.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS OF 2025 will begin this coming Tuesday 14th January in the church hall at 5.00pm. Parents please ensure that your children have arrived by 5.00pm, so as to begin on time. We greatly appreciate the work of our catechists who give their time voluntarily, assisting parents (the first educators), in teaching the faith to our youngsters.

BURNS SUPPER NIGHT: Saturday 1st February in the Church Hall at 7.00pm. An evening not to be missed, good entertainment and a traditional two course Burns Night Supper with a whiskey toast included. Tickets on sale now £20.00 after each Sat Evening and Sunday Mass. This is a charity evening in aid of the SJF Lourdes Fund. This will be the last main event in the hall before handover to the building contractors.

LITTLE CHURCH IS BACK AT THE 10.30AM SUNDAY MASS. We start in Church and the children go off to the hall for their own teaching. When the children return to the church encourage them to use the Children's Mass sheets, Mass cards and Missals, which are available for our youngsters from the back of the church. They are especially for them

BE FAMILIAR... with our church and church hall exit doors and routes. You may have been coming to SJF for many years or are at SJF for the first time. It's always a good idea to look around to see where your nearest exit route is, in the event that we ever need to evacuate our building at short notice. Thank you.

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.

UNWANTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS A very Happy New Year from the Lourdes group. We just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone for their continuous support with the Lourdes Fundraising. We couldn't do it without you. We have a challenge this year to raise money without the use of the hall – we are going to have to get creative. So, if anyone has any unwanted Christmas gifts or leftover chocolates and bottles, please consider donating them to the Lourdes group – we are planning a massive tombola for the Shepperton Fair later this year. If you have any items to donate there will be a box in the porch for the next couple of weeks. Thank you again. Katrina.

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!

COLLECTIONS AT MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS:
Christmas 24th/25th Dec: Loose £824.42
One off Christmas envelopes: £445.00
Loose giving in the plate 29th Dec: £190.19
Loose giving in the plate 8th Jan: £254
Giving via the bank: November averaged £972.08 per week. 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, thanks, we couldn't do it without you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:
Sunday 2nd February: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD: (Candlemas)
Wednesday 5th March: ASH WEDNESDAY: Masses at 9.30am & 7.00pm — Lent begins
Saturday 8th March: First Reconciliation: 12.00 noon. (For First Holy Communion Children)
Sunday 9th March: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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 requirements for Catholic godparents, are available from the church porch table.

PRAYER REQUEST BOX: for your prayers, to be offered during the praying of the Holy Rosary, is situated at the back of the church. Rosary Prayers are offered on Wed' following the 9.30am Mass.

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. It's helpful, 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.

GREAT NEWS: Our hall renovation will get underway on 17th February for 14 weeks. There will be some mobilisation of the contractor in the car park beforehand. We understand that parking will remain available for parishioners, with a space cordoned off for the contractors. We will have more information following a pre-start meeting at the end of January.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER
Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week for the continued repose of the soul of
Lorna Troop

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
JOE DELAHUNTY RIP
FOR MANDY MOLLENTZE RIP
ANNIVERSARIES THIS JANUARY
Ellen Mary Walsh, Anne Atfield, John Gregson, Arthur Mitchell, Francis Kane, Charles Butterworth, Michael Thompson, Michael Tinsley, Margaret Anderson, Marina Schwartz, Mario Coppi, Margaret Walker, Marion Dollery, Robert Ekkel, Tony Hill, Frances Reynolds, Jarek Jedrzejowski.
ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD