THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 05 Jan	**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Alice Cane RIP anniversary Pro populo - for the people of our parish For the Semple Family - in thanksgiving
Mon 06 Jan	**Christmas Feria**	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 07 Jan	**Christmas Feria**	Mass at 9.30am	In thanksgiving for the safe arrival of baby Josephine Marie
Wed 08 Jan	**Christmas Feria**	Mass at 9.30am	For Fr Shaun's intentions in thanksgiving
Thurs 09 Jan	**Christmas Feria**	Mass at 9.30am	For our Hall Renovation Benefactors In thanksgiving for their generosity
Fri 10 Jan	**Christmas Feria**	Mass at 9.30am	For Almina Alwanger RIP
Sat 11 Jan	**Christmas Feria**	Mass at 10.00am	In thanksgiving offered by Ivo & Lynnet
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

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
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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

Sunday cycle
Readings Year C
Weekday Readings
Christmas

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 5th January 2025
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
- Weekly Newsletter -



THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF OUR HOMES: In celebration of the wise men entering the house where Jesus was, there is an ancient tradition of praying for blessings on our homes on or near Epiphany. All you need are the following prayers and a piece of blessed chalk from the church, to mark the frame of your door, with the traditional initials of the wise men (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar) and this year's date. Perhaps spend a moment this Sunday asking God to bless your home and to be with all members of your household.

All make the Sign of the Cross.
Head of Household: "Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

Reader: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.
(Jn 1: 1-3,14)

Using chalk, write on the outside of your house, above or next to a doorway:
20 + C + M + B + 25
Each letter could be written by a different family member.
Then pray the following prayer:

All: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week for
Odilia and Anacleta Oliveira
and for Mario Joao

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
JOE DELAHUNTY RIP (23RDDEC)
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

WHAT IS A JUBILEE?
A Jubilee Year, also known as a "Holy Year," is a special year in the life of the Church currently celebrated every 25 years. The most recent Ordinary Jubilee was in 2000, with Pope Francis calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. Jubilee years have been held at regular intervals in the Catholic Church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a Jubilee year every 50 years.

According to the Vatican website for the Jubilee, these years in Jewish history were "intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields."

WHEN DID THE JUBILEE 2025 START?
Jubilee 2025 opened on Christmas Eve, 24th Dec. with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Holy Doors have also been opened at Rome's three other major basilicas: St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul's Outside the Walls. A Holy Door was also opened on 26th Dec. at a Roman prison Pope Francis has visited twice before to celebrate Mass.
The doors represent the passage to salvation Jesus opened to humanity. In 1423, Pope Martin V opened the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. John Lateran — the Diocese of Rome's Cathedral — for the first time for a Jubilee. For the Holy Year of 1500, Pope Alexander VI opened Holy Doors at Rome's four main basilicas. At the end of a Holy Year, the Holy Doors are formally closed and then bricked over by masons on the 28th Dec. 2025.

JUBILEE 2025 THEME
The theme of the Holy Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." The papal bull, issued 9th May , that introduced the coming Jubilee Year is titled "Spes Non Confundit," or "Hope does not disappoint," drawn from Romans 5:5. "Everyone knows what it is to hope," Pope Francis wrote. "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring."
"Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt," he continued. "Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope."

JUBILEE AND RECONCILIATION
Drawing on their Jewish roots, Jubilee years emphasise the Sacrament of Reconciliation and restoring relationships with God. They also provide an opportunity for a special Jubilee indulgence, which can remove the residual effects of sin through the grace of Christ.

JUBILEE: A CALL TO FAITH IN ACTION
The year calls Christians to action. Pope Francis called for "signs of hope" in the Jubilee Year, including the desire for peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and closeness to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants and people "in difficult situations." Pope Francis has called on affluent countries to forgive the debts of countries that would never be able to repay them, and address "ecological debt," which he described as "connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time."

MAJOR EVENTS FOR JUBILEE 2025
Major events will be happening in Rome, including Jubilee gatherings with liturgies, speakers and papal audiences to celebrate different groups within the Church. Some of these special gatherings will coincide with major canonizations, such as the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis during the Jubilee of Teenagers April 25-27, and the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati during the Jubilee of Young People July 28-Aug.
Expect some events to highlight the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, from which Christians received the Nicene Creed. This year, despite different liturgical calendars, the dates for celebrating Easter align in the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, leading some, including Pope Francis, to call for a "decisive step forward towards unity around a common date for Easter," which was discussed in 325 at the Council of Nicaea.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JUBILEE AT HOME
While many Jubilee events will take place in Rome and at the Vatican, it's a celebration for the whole Church. On the 29th Dec., diocesan bishops were expected to open the Holy Year locally with Masses at their Cathedrals and co-Cathedrals. Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their Cathedral during the year. While Pope Francis encouraged bishops to designate Holy Doors for their own cathedrals during the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015, there will only be Holy Doors in Rome in 2025.