THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 23 Feb	**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro populo - for the people of our parish For William Diekmann RIP anniversary For Kathleen Montgomery RIP and for Michael Collins RIP (brother & sister)
Mon 24 Feb	Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 25 Feb	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Pope Francis - receiving medical treatment at this time
Wed 26 Feb	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Ken Johnson RIP - 1st Anniversary
Thurs 27 Feb	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Anthony Stride RIP whose funeral cremation takes place this afternoon
Fri 28 Feb	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Joe Delahunty RIP
Sat 01 Mar	ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales	Mass at 10.00am	For Cidalia Alexandre RIP 4th year anniversary
Sun ✠ 02 Mar	**8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Eileen & Robert Tams RIP Pro populo - for the people of our parish For deceased Brothers of the Catholic Catenians Runneymede Circle

Holy Rosary Prayers: on Wednesdays following 9.30am Mass - suspended during refurbishment
Exposition and Benediction is usually on Friday morning - suspended during refurbishment
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 3

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Sunday 23rd February 2025
7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
- Weekly Newsletter -



There is a lot of conflict in our world. Sometimes when we think of enemies we think of another country waging war with us or people who might try to attack us, such as terrorists. But the concept of enemies goes so much further than that. We hear about culture wars these days. People on opposite sides of an issue, want to win so badly, that they attack those who don't agree with them. They don't attack with weapons, but they attack with words and by using facts selectively. But enemies can also be even closer, it can be someone who gossips about us. An enemy can be a former friend who has betrayed us. And these enemies are often the ones who cause us the most pain because they are so close.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus invites us to love our enemies. This includes enemies who are far, far away, and enemies who we know by name.

The command to "love your enemies" seems almost impossible. Our hearts can become hard, because we don't want to be hurt again. Our hearts can become vengeful, because we want people to feel the same pain they caused us. How can we love? The key seems to be in the last part of the Gospel reading: "Judge not and you will not be judged."

Jesus calls us to a change of heart, which is not easy. Jesus reminds us that we are also in need of mercy and forgiveness. Our hardened hearts need to become open and loving hearts, forgiving hearts. A change of heart takes some work. It is very difficult to love our enemies. It doesn't just happen. A starting point is to pray for those who hurt us and ask God for the grace to forgive.

Look carefully at the picture above. What do you see? "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful". Be set free from the barbed wire of conflict and hardness of heart and fly into the grace and love of our heavenly Father. When we are no longer barbed, we are set free.

Have a great Sunday.

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.

THANK YOU to all who rallied around last Sunday to clear the kitchen and Sacristy in anticipation of the refurbishment works which began last Monday. You were all a fantastic help. Thanks also to parishioners who over the past weeks have cleared out, thrown away or recycled stuff accumulated over many years. We'll be in a good position when we come to unpack. Now that the hall refurbishment is underway, please note that the toilets are closed and refreshments after Mass will resume once the works have been completed.

CONGRATULATIONS to baby Ida Mary Rose Biggs who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this weekend. We pray for Baby Ida and give thanks to her parents for bringing her to the faith. Deo Gratias - Thanks be to God.

NOT LONG NOW … Ash Wednesday falls on 5th March. We are still collecting your old Palm Crosses - for burning, ready to make the ash for Ash Wednesday. Do you have any palm crosses at home? The collection basket is at the back of the church. Thank you.

LITTLE CHURCH AT THE 10.30AM SUNDAY MASS is now suspended until after the hall refurbishment works have been completed. Please encourage your children to use the Children's Mass sheets, Mass cards and Missals during the Mass. Thank you.

GET INTO TEACHING: Are you thinking about becoming a teacher? Discover how at our *'Get into Teaching'* event on: Monday 17th March 2025 at St Paul's Catholic College, Manor Lane, Sunbury on Thames, Surrey, TW16 6JE. To reserve a place: Email: **teach@st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk** for further information please contact Mrs Angelina Daniel: at adaniel@st-uls.surrey.sch.uk Tel: 01932 783811 Ext 127

HAVE A MASS OFFERED FOR YOUR INTENTIONS: It may be helpful to know that the Mass bookings for Sundays are booked up months in advance and therefore if you require a specific date in the year, you may want to consider speaking to Mandy in the office (Wednesday and Thursday mornings), asap. Weekday Masses are much easier to book. 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, to please add your name and contact details so we can advise when the Mass will be offered.

IF YOU ATTEND A WEEKDAY MASS on a regular basis and would like to read, please do let Daphne know. We are very short of readers, having lost a number of readers to ill health or having moved away from the area. Many thanks. Fr Shaun

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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED… in becoming our new Caritas Parish Representative? If you have a heart for social action and are interested in becoming the bridge between the Diocese and St John Fisher Parish, Please speak to Fr Shaun. Maybe you have helped with our Food Bank collections or our Warm Hub? Interested ? Curious to know more?

KEEPING THE FAITH! Life is both busy and challenging. Our strength so often comes from our practice of the faith, but getting to Mass on Sundays, the Day of Resurrection, our Holy Day of Obligation can be difficult. If you can't make your usual Mass time, why not think about coming to one of the other Sunday Masses - we are fortunate to have three Masses to choose from: Sat Vigil for Sunday at 5.00pm, Sunday at 8.30am and Sunday at 10.30pm. It's great when you are here, but you are missed you when you are not.

A DAY WITH MARY - Westminster Cathedral on Sat 1st Mar (9.45am-5.00pm) go to: **https://www.adaywithmary.org/**

PRAYING FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS HURT YOU

(Start by meditating on this scripture)

Jesus said to his disciples:
"You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies,
and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your heavenly Father,
for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,
and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust." (Matthew 5:43-45)

(Now pray for healing in your own heart.)

Loving Father, it is so difficult to let go of the hurt.
First I ask you to cleanse my heart of my resentment towards …..
Grant me the grace to forgive him/her for this pain I feel.
Heal my brokenness and give me peace.
I believe you have the power to do this.
I trust in your justice.

(And finally, pray for the person who has hurt you.)

I lift up …. to you in prayer.
I don't know what caused him/her to hurt me in this way. Only you can see what is in another person's heart. Please call to him/her and draw him/her closer to you. I know you have a tremendous love for all of your children, including …. In your compassion, grant him/her whatever grace he/she needs today.
I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord
Through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE 2025: Friday 7th March at 11.00am at St Andrew's Baptist Church in Upper Halliford. This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands. Refreshments after the service. All are welcome to attend this ecumenical service of prayer & worship.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY at Westminster Cathedral, Sat 17th May at 2:30pm. The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic Marriage. Please give our church office your details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email). We will then arrange for your invitations to be sent.

WESTMINSTER WAY PILGRIM WALK

Available online are resources to walk the 'Westminster Way', including a Leader's Guide and Pilgrim Passport. This pathway takes pilgrims through Central London, in the steps of the saints as 'beacons of hope'. Starting at English Martyrs, Tower Hill and ending at Westminster Cathedral, pilgrims are invited to look closely at different expressions of sainthood and the saints who embody them. Find out more at https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/westminster-way/.

COLLECTIONS AT MASS: Loose giving in the plate last weekend was £268.55 Our weekend loose offertory collection continues for all who do not use a bank standing order or who do not use the card machine. The January total collections, including Standing Orders and card machine giving totalled £917.71 weekly. Whatever way you support our work here at SJF, thankyou so much, we couldn't do it without you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:
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
Sunday 13th April: PALM SUNDAY
Thursday 17th April: MAUNDY THURSDAY
Friday 18th April: GOOD FRIDAY
Sunday 20th April: EASTER SUNDAY

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week for our builders , Diocesan Surveyor and all involved in our hall refurbishment works.

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
ANNIVERSARIES THIS FEBRUARY
Canon George Groves, Peter Madyslam, Sarah Sharratt, Fr Michael Groarke, Mary Pitfield Fr Ron Aylward, Bernard Bunce, Nora Harris, Raymond Restel, Anne Quinn, Terry Sharratt, Brenda Jones, Patrick Harris, Barbara Hughes, Stephen Marriage, Samuel William Elliott, Susan Jane Connerty-Smith, Alan Cook, Arthur "Ken" Johnson.
ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD