THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

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
Mon 03 Mar	Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 04 Mar	Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Anna & Maria - their growing in holiness
Wed 05 Mar	**ASH WEDNESDAY** **Day of Fasting** **And Abstinence**	**Mass at 9.30am** **Mass at 7.00pm**	Pro populo - for the people of our parish Pro populo - for the people of our parish
Thurs 06 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Jack Mulvany RIP
Fri 07 Mar	Lent Feria World Day of Prayer	Mass at 9.30am	*This Mass is available for your intentions - to reserve, just ask Mandy in the office*
Sat 08 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 10.00am First Reconciliations at 12.00 noon	For Luce & Tole Nikolla For our First Holy Communion Children
Sun ✠ 09 Mar	**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Stan Scanlon RIP & Gwen Donnery RIP For Anna Barry RIP

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 4

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Sunday 2nd March 2025
8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
- Weekly Newsletter -



The readings for the 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time tell us that our words and actions should reflect that we are Christians. The first reading tells us to be careful in our speech. The psalm reminds us to be just and kind. In the second reading, Paul tells us that Jesus has given us victory over sin. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to take care of our own sins before pointing out the failings of others, and that our words and actions reflect what is truly in our hearts.

What we say, reflects what we really believe deep down. And what we believe deep down, can impact our relationships with others. We can be blinded by our own pride, to the point that we might even think we are better than those around us. We can become self absorbed, unaware of our own weaknesses. This is a barrier to our path to holiness and prevents us from leading others to Christ. Fortunately, Jesus is with us to show us the better way.



Some things to ponder…

- Am I aware of my own blind spots, the log in my eye?
- What am I afraid to see in my own life?
- Do my words build up the Kingdom of God or do they tear it down?

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… is your very last opportunity to return you old palm crosses in time for burning, to make the ash for Ash Wednesday. The returns basket is at the back of the church. Thank you.



ASH WEDNESDAY is on 5th March and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting. What does this mean? For those in good health, from 18 years, up to the age of retirement, fasting is sticking to 1 regular meal and 2 smaller plates of food each day without snacking. Masses with the imposition of ashes for all, will be at 9.30am & 7.00pm. Please let others know who might not be at Mass this weekend. We look forward to seeing you.

From Wednesday onward, as Lent begins, the Church moves into a different mood, with the hanging of purple banners, the removal of flowers and a change in the Gospel acclamation. We save the *Alleluia*, the *Gloria*, the flowers and brighter vestments and hangings for the celebrations at Easter. In this way we start to be guided on our journey through Lent and helped to examine our lives in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. We are reminded that Lent is not just about what we give up, it's about who we become!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday in Lent at 7.00pm in church, starting Friday 14th March.

THE CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY will be on Friday 14th March. Envelopes and prayer cards are available from this weekend. 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.

HOW IS IT ALL GOING? The renovation works are well underway. The new openings for storage and entrance to the hall have been created and the strip out of old electrics and pipework is progressing. The four old boilers have been removed. This is why we have temporarily, limited heating in the church. Work on external drainage has also been ongoing this week. Please do keep the works and our contractors in your prayers as they make progress. Many thanks

NEW OPENING FROM SACRISTY INTO THE HALL



NEW OPENING FOR STORAGE SPACE INTO THE HALL



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.

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.

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 when you are not.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE 2025: This coming 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.

COLLECTIONS AT MASS: Loose giving in the plate last weekend was £209.90 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.

JUBILEE YEAR INFORMATION Make a Pilgrimage to a Sacred Jubilee Site. The following sites have been decreed as Jubilee Churches:

Westminster Cathedral
St Gregory the Great, South Ruislip
St Mary & St Joseph, Poplar
Corpus Christi, Covent Garden
The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden
Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City

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?

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

This coming ASH WEDNESDAY, 5th March:
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

A MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS will be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral by Bishop Paul McAleenan on Saturday 5th April at 2.00pm. This Mass welcomes parents and families who continue to suffer the grief and sorrow of the death of their child, and who might find some comfort in attending.

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.

DO YOU COME TO THE 5.00PM SAT VIGIL MASS and travel from Ashford? We have a lovely senior parishioner who lives on Alexander Road, who would appreciate a lift. Can you help? Please let Mandy in the office know. Many thanks.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week for the repose of the soul of John Brown RIP

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
ANNIVERSARIES THIS MARCH
Denis Ryan, E.J. Cane, Kathleen Sweet, Rose Ryan, Fr Charles Connor, John Ohlson, Victoria Roberts, Patricia Macklin, Mary O'Sullivan, James O'Sullivan, Lynn Guevara, Maureen Mitchell, Eileen Tams, Helen Bool, Brian Duffy, Matthew Sawyer, Jane Bermingham, C.V. Pepper, Mary Cotter, Joy McQuade.
ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD