THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

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
Mon 10 Mar	Lent Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 11 Mar	Lent Feria	No Mass at SJF **Fr Shaun is at St Richard Reynolds School, Twickenham**	
Wed 12 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Drucilla 'Jean' Renouf RIP
Thurs 13 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Robin Sider RIP
Fri 14 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm	For David Mason for his recovery
Sat 15 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 10.00am	For our building works and contractors
Sun ✠ 16 Mar	**2ND SUNDAY OF LENT**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For young Francis Paul - in thanksgiving Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Patrick Cronin 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

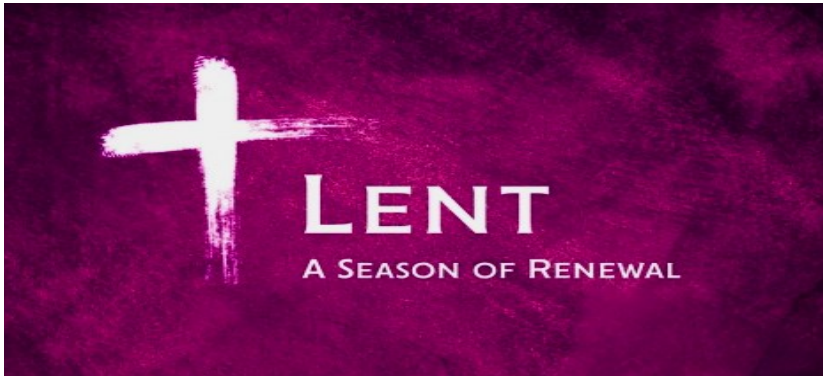
To make a donation or to make an offering for a Mass intention go to:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/donate/

ST JOHN FISHER SHEPPERTON

Sunday cycle Readings Year C 1st Week of Lent Psalter Week 1

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 9th March 2025
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
Weekly Newsletter



This Season of Lent, offers a unique opportunity to try new approaches to prayer that can enhance your spiritual journey. Here are a few ideas to consider: expand your prayer repertoire by learning a new traditional Catholic prayer. Whether it's the Act of Contrition, the Memorare (a prayer for help from our Blessed Mother), or the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, incorporating these prayers into your daily routine can bring a sense of reverence and tradition to your Lenten prayers.

Instead of simply reading holy scripture, try engaging with it in a more interactive way. Choose a passage that resonates with you and spend time meditating on its meaning. Reflect on how it might apply to your life and ask God to reveal his message to you through His Word.

In addition to Sunday Mass, consider attending a weekday Mass during Lent. This can provide a quiet and reflective atmosphere for prayer and worship. Take advantage of the opportunity to receive the Eucharist more frequently and allow Jesus to nourish your soul.

Writing can be a powerful form of prayer and reflection. Start a journal where you can pour out your thoughts, feelings, and prayers to God. Alternatively, create a gratitude list to cultivate a spirit of thankfulness during Lent. Write down the blessings and graces you have received, and offer prayers of gratitude for them.

By exploring different ways to pray during Lent, you can deepen your spiritual connection with God and experience a more meaningful Lenten journey. Incorporate these practices into your daily routine and allow them to guide you closer to God's presence.

WELCOME to SJF in this Holy Season of Lent. It's good to have you with us. Lent is a season of fasting, praying and giving. The Church moves into a different mood, with the hanging of purple banners and a change in the Gospel Acclamation. We save the *Alleluia*, the *Gloria*, the flowers and brighter vestments 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! How is God calling you this Lent?

THANK YOU to all who attended the Holy Mass here on Ash Wednesday, last week. The parishioner numbers at both Masses, morning and evening, were very encouraging to see. Thank you, this is a great start to Lent!

CONGRATULATIONS to our children who made their First Reconciliations in church this weekend. Thank you to their parents and to their catechists, Jean, Mary and Stephanie, for guiding them along the path to this stage in their journey of faith.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are a lovely Lenten tradition. In this devotion, we make the journey to Calvary with our Lord Jesus, focusing on how he suffered for us and his interactions with those he met on the way. The Stations will commence in church on Friday 14th March at 7.00pm and then, each Friday of Lent. If you are looking for something different to do this Lent, come and join us in this quiet meditative encounter with the Lord.

THE CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY will be on Friday 14th March. Envelopes and prayer cards are available at the back of the church. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS, as he continues with his treatment for bilateral pneumonia at Rome's Gemelli Hospital. Pope Francis has expressed his deep appreciation for the prayers rising from the hearts of the faithful across the world. "I feel all your affection and closeness, and at this particular time, I feel as if I am 'carried' and supported by all God's people. Thank you all!"

LITTLE CHURCH AT THE 10.30AM SUNDAY MASS is currently 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.



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.

MOVING ON - The renovation of the hall is continuing. The new sacristy wall is being erected and toilets space created. Progress is being made with the new heating system, benefiting both the hall and the church. Work on the external drainage is now completed. Next week, a window will be removed and bricked up in order to create the new space for the accessible toilet. Hopefully we'll have some photographs to show you next week. Please keep the works and our contractors in your prayers as they continue to make progress. Many thanks.

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.

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.

COLLECTIONS AT MASS: Loose giving in the plate last weekend was £278.90 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:
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.

SUNBURY PARISH IRISH NIGHT: Loyola Centre, Green Street, Sunbury. Sat 22nd March 7.00 - 10.00pm. Music by DJ Adrian and live music. Tickets £12.50 Adults, £5 child, Family £30. Includes soup, soda bread, tea and coffee. Bring your own alcohol. For tickets call: Liz, 07794 036608 or Rose, 07783 799895.

STROKE AWARENESS SEMINAR: at The Burlington, 68 Manygate Lane, Shepperton, Tuesday, 8th April, from 11:00 to 12:00. Seminar Highlights: Understanding Stroke, FAST Test, Stroke Prevention, Impact of Stroke, Supporting Stroke Survivors. Stay informed and gain knowledge on stroke from the Stroke Association. Places are limited but free. Please call Kirsty Ford, Admissions Manager: 01932 220338.

YOUNG ADULTS LENT RETREAT DAY with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 5th April 2025 10.00 am – 5.30 pm. At Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station: High Street Kensington). Programme includes: talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • faith sharing • Mass and social time. Donations only. Register here: rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

APOLOGIES - there will not be a Mass at SJF on Tuesday morning this coming week. Fr Shaun will be at St Richard Reynolds School, Twickenham all day for the students' Lenten Reconciliations and for the Deanery Meeting. Thank you for your understanding.

OUR CHURCH EXTERNAL NOTICEBOARDS for both the hall and the church are looking very weathered and also require updating. We are looking at costs for renewal but good hand sign writers are in great demand. Do you know of a sign writer? Please let us know in the office. This would be really helpful. Thank you.

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