THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 23 Mar	**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Sir Thomas Pilkington RIP For Gavril Pista RIP (Birthday)
Mon 24 Mar	Lent Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 25 Mar	**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**	Mass at 9.30am	For Carmel Nolan
Wed 26 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	In thanksgiving for healing - Francis
Thurs 27 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For a private Intention
Fri 28 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm	For Dedee Owen RIP
Sat 29 Mar	Lent Feria	Mass at 10.00am	For Liam Ogle RIP
Sun ✠ 30 Mar	**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT** LAETARE SUNDAY (REJOICE)	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For C. Lynn & Lorraine Babcock RIP Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Abbly & Ashton, in thanksgiving for blessings received

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 CATHOLIC CHURCH

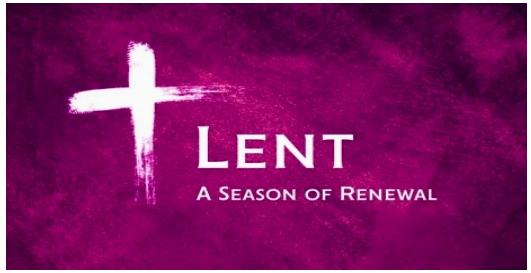
Sunday 23rd March 2025
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
Weekly Newsletter

Sunday cycle Readings Year C 3rd Week of Lent Psalter Week 3



As we continue our Lenten journey, we are called to reflect deeply on our relationship with God and our commitment to living out his will in our daily lives. Today's readings invite us to consider the themes of repentance, (and showing remorse), mercy, and the transformative power of God's love.

In the first reading, we hear the story of Moses and the burning bush, a powerful reminder of God's presence and his call to each of us. The second reading encourages us to learn from the past and to stand firm in our faith. In the Holy Gospel, Jesus shares the parable of the barren fig tree, urging us to bear fruit in our lives through repentance and renewal.



As we gather together this weekend, let us open our hearts to God's word and his powerful grace, seeking to grow closer to him and to one another.

May this time of prayer and reflection strengthen our resolve to follow Jesus more faithfully, more joyfully and to share his love with the world in which we live. Happy Sunday!



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.

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 are in church on each Friday of Lent at 7.00pm If you are looking for something different to do this Lent, come and join us in this quiet meditative encounter with the Lord.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 25TH JULY - 1ST AUGUST
This year, the initial application for a place on the pilgrimage is via online application form Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Nichols is now open via the online form at https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane or train are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by **Wednesday 30th April.** If you do not have access to a computer to register online, we can assist you in the office. Contact us to arrange a time slot. When you come at the pre- arranged time, you'll need to bring with you your GP details, valid Passport, and your EHIC/GHIC Health Insurance card to travel to Lourdes.



DON'T FORGET: The clocks spring forward one hour to British Summer Time next Sunday - 30th March.

WE COULD DO THIS… Could we run a Saturday morning, once a month Repair Café here at SJF? Would you be interested in helping? There has been some interest already - let Fr Shaun know if you might want to help. **HEAR HOW THE REPAIR CAFÉ** at St Margaret's Parish, Twickenham, works . Hear how their volunteers offer a warm welcome with a cuppa, whilst they repair items, from electrical appliances to bikes and cuddly toys. Monday 24th March, 7.00pm to 8.00pm (online). Sign up here to watch:
https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/care-for-creation-with-twickenham-repair-cafe/
You can also watch some short videos about the Café and perhaps even spot a couple of familiar faces from our own parish:
https://www.twickenhamrepaircafe.org/

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. Thank you.

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.

FCAP - FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL. A group of Christians working within aviation who want to meet others in the industry to encourage one another in faith. Meetings are initially on Zoom on 17th March, 22nd April, 8th May, 24th June and 11th July. FCAP leaders are: Ben: benfcap@gmail.com or Adrian: adrianfcap@gmail.com. They look forward to hearing from you.

ALL MASSES are live streamed at SJF, 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 in person.

COLLECTIONS AT MASS: Loose giving in the plate last weekend was £262.37 Our weekend loose offertory collection continues for all who do not use a bank standing order or who do not use the card machine. This February, total collections, including Standing Orders and card machine giving totalled £857.08 weekly. Whatever way you support our work here at SJF, thankyou so much, we couldn't do it without you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:
Sunday 13th April: PALM SUNDAY
Thursday 17th April: MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.00pm
Friday 18th April: GOOD FRIDAY 3.00pm
Holy Saturday: THE EASTER VIGIL 8.00PM (Sunset)
Sunday 20th April: EASTER SUNDAY

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!"

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

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/.

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.

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.

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!

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