THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 30 Mar	**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT** LAETARE SUNDAY MOTHERING SUNDAY	**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
Mon 31 Mar	Lent Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 01 April	Lent Feria	Apologies **no** Mass at 9.30am today	
Wed 02 April	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Sean Gorman RIP
Thurs 03 April	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Kevin O'Connor RIP
Fri 04 April	Lent Feria	Mass at 9.30am Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm	For our hall renovation Benefactors, in thanksgiving
Sat 05 April	Lent Feria	Mass at 10.00am	For Carmel Vickers RIP
Sun ✠ 06 April	**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro populo - for the people of our parish For Chrissie Conlon RIP For Nechama Argent 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 CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday cycle Readings Year C 4th Week of Lent Psalter Week 4

Sunday 30th March 2025
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
Laetare Sunday - Mothering Sunday
Weekly Newsletter



Today we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (or the Forgiving Father), the message is Reconciliation - the making new of relationships, the healing of past wrongs and the opening of ourselves to the "new creation" which St Paul talks about in the second reading today. This is just as the Israelites opened themselves to the New Creation of the Promised Land, when under Joshua they ended their sojourn in the wilderness after forty years of hardship, and began to eat of the produce of the country. It is all God's work: it is God who calls us back, and God who welcomes us into the Promised Land of his mercy when we return. So today, let us think not so much of sin and offences, but the new creation God offers us, if we seek reconciliation, turn back to him and embrace him as our loving Father.



So what is Laetare Sunday? Laetare (Latin for 'Rejoice') comes from our Mass entrance antiphon. It's the Church's way of giving us a "caffeine boost" as we prepare for the darkness of Holy Week and especially for Good Friday. We are being readied to experience the darkness, before the Resurrection light which awaits us on Easter Sunday.



WELCOME as we continue on our pilgrimage through this Holy Season of Lent. It's a season of fasting, praying and giving. As we prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter, we are reminded that Lent is not just about what we give up. It's about who we become!

MOTHERING SUNDAY is an ancient title given to this Sunday - midway through Lent. It is traditionally the day that the faithful would go to visit, go a mothering, to the church of their Baptism. Nowadays this weekend is also used as an occasion to give thanks for our mothers, living and departed. We wish all our mothers a blessing on this day. We pray also for the souls of our dear departed mothers.

APOLOGIES - Mass will not be celebrated here on Tuesday morning, this coming week. Fr Shaun is conducting a Funeral for a deceased family friend on Monday afternoon in Wales, and will therefore be travelling back on Tuesday.

POPE FRANCIS: Please keep our Holy Father in your prayers, as he continues with his time of convalescence at the Casa Santa Marta, his place of residence at the Vatican. Pope Francis has expressed his great joy at knowing that prayers are being said for him by pilgrims in Rome and by well wishers from all over the world. "Recently, I have very much felt the support that comes from your closeness," the Pope said, "particularly the prayers which you have been accompanying me with."

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.

EXTERNAL CHURCH NOTICEBOARDS Following a previous notice, we have now found a good sign writer to renew our noticeboards which are looking very weathered. Thank you for your suggestions.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME Parents, please continue to follow your child's progress through their workbooks, ensuring that they are completing their homework each week. Encourage your child to say their prayers and importantly, bring them to Holy Mass. You are the first educators of your little ones. Help them to celebrate the faith, before the world teaches them something else!

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2025 Please support the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal if you can. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese; His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, expresses his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. You can take a donation envelope, make a donation online or donate in the collection box on the front right hand side of the church. See the poster in the porch for more information. Thank you.

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.

THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN FOR 2024 has been approved by the Diocesan auditors and is summarised in the next column. Thank you to Traci, our Bookkeeper for preparing the accounts and to our Finance Committee. Thank you to all who support the good works we do. We really cannot operate without your support and we are scrupulously careful with every penny donated.

SJF Accounts Summary

Year ending 31st Dec' 2024
General Parish Funds Only
(Excluding Renovation & Hall fundraising amounts)

	31/12/2024
Assessable Income	
Offertories Envelopes	£1,000.00
Offertories SOs & Online	£39,683.24
Offertories Loose Plate	£13,092.91
Offertories Contactless	£6,313.00
Tax Refunds from Gift Aid donations	£11,562.04
General Donations & Fund Raising	£501.66
Non-Assessable Income	
Catechetics	£515.85
Candles, Repository & Papers	£4,068.54
Parish Centre Revenue	£6,359.00
Christmas/Easter, Stipends and Fees (i.e. Funerals & weddings)	£9,517.10
Legacies	£250.00
Specific Donations	£2,819.82
Third Party Receipts	£2,481.35
Bank Interest	£6,719.49
Total Receipts	**£104,884.00**
Expenditure	
Clergy Stipends (Priest's salary)	£10,899.96
Non-Clergy Salaries	£11,567.83
Travel Expenses	£278.36
Supply Priests	£1,000.00
Housekeeping	£269.66
Catechetics	£629.83
Liturgical Expenses	£2,684.54
Candles, Repository & Papers	£1,603.04
Property Repairs and Renewals	£14,455.10
Heat, Light & Water	£9,727.26
Council Tax, Insurance & Rates	£4,556.71
Parish Centre Expenses	£2,336.47
Office & Administration	£1,941.59
Parish Activities	£207.44
Mass Stipends Distributed	£80.00
Donations/Grants	£228.94
Miscellaneous Expenses	£215.07
Diocesan Assessment (what we have to give to the Diocese)	£15,781.32
Third Party Payments	£1,504.88
Total Payments	**£79,968.00**
Total Surplus / Loss	**£24,916.00**

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.

COLLECTIONS AT MASS: Loose giving in the plate last weekend was £203.99 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

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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY THANK YOU, to all who supported the Fast Day this year. The total raised was £458.78 This is tremendous. You are enormously kind.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week for all who are receiving medical treatment at this time

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
ANNIVERSARIES THIS APRIL

Margaret Ward, Maurice Ward,
Leila Waterhouse, Edward Reilly,
Christopher Romer, Winifred Smith,
Maureen Keady, William Walsh, Ted Jones,
Anna Semkowicz-Holt, Cecilia Grose,
Fr Anton Cowan, Catherine Monica Clarkin,
Jeffrey Cowen.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD