THIS WEEK AT SJF

Sun ✠ 17 Aug	20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pro Populo - For the people of this Parish For Andrew Boyle RIP For Margaret Gane RIP
Mon 18 Aug	Feria	**No Mass at SJF**	
Tue 19 Aug	Feria	"	
Wed 20 Aug	St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church	Holy Rosary at 10.00am	
Thurs 21 Aug	St Pius X, Pope	"	
Fri 22 Aug	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	"	
Sat 23 Aug	Feria	" (Usual evening Vigil Mass at 5.00pm)	
Sun ✠ 24 Aug	21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pro Populo - For the people of this Parish For Helen Diekmann RIP - anniversary For Ciaran Moran RIP

Masses locally, telephone for details:

St Michael's, Ashford 01784 252230

St Anne's, Chertsey 01932 562375

St Ignatius, Sunbury 01932 783507

Please also check church websites for any holiday updates. If you need a Priest urgently, please do contact other local Catholic Priests

Holy Rosary Prayers: Wednesday morning
Exposition and Benediction is usually on Friday morning - **but will resume during September**
The Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession) Saturdays at 4.15pm - 4.45pm or by arrangement.
Prayer Request Box: at the back of the church. ✠ **= Holy Day of Obligation**

HAVE A HOLY MASS OFFERED for your intentions: speak to Mandy in the office (Wed or Thurs AM) to book your date. If you are making a written request please add your name and contact details.

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
Weekday readings:
Year 1
Lectionary Year 1
Ordinary Time
Week 20
Psalter Week 4

Sunday 17th August 2025
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Weekly Newsletter



This Sunday's Gospel invites us to reflect honestly on our discipleship. Are we truly ready to follow Jesus, even when it leads to conflict or discomfort? Are we willing to stand with him, even when others turn away? The Eucharist this weekend calls us to examine our faith with open eyes and courageous hearts.

Jesus speaks with striking clarity: *"I came to cast fire on the earth and would that it were already kindled!"* His words are bold and unsettling. He warns that even families may be divided over him - some will accept his message, others will reject it. This is not a call to division for its own sake, but a recognition that truth often challenges comfort, and faith demands conviction.



In the first reading, we see this lived out in the prophet Jeremiah. For speaking God's truth, he is thrown into a cistern, left to sink in the mud. Yet even there, God does not abandon him. Help comes from an unexpected source - an Ethiopian official who lifts Jeremiah out. Even in the depths, Jeremiah's trust in God remains firm.

The second reading, from the Letter to the Hebrews, encourages us to persevere. We are called to cast off all that hinders us and run with endurance the race set before us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus. He endured the cross and all its shame so that we might not grow weary or lose heart.

This Sunday, may we be strengthened to follow Christ with courage, even when the path is difficult. May we be faithful witnesses to his truth, trusting that he walks with us through every challenge. Happy Sunday!

WELCOME TO ST JOHN FISHER, SHEPPERTON.

This newsletter gives some information for the week ahead. If you are new to SJF church, or visiting whilst on holiday , it is great to have you with us, you are very welcome! Do please introduce yourself. All Masses at SJF are live streamed via YouTube: 'St John Fisher Shepperton'. Whilst live streaming cannot replace our physical presence at the Holy Mass, streaming offers a link with SJF for those who are incapacitated through ill health.

THANK YOU TO ALL who attended Mass last Friday for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. It was lovely to welcome Fr Jim Overton to celebrate with us. Special thanks to Angela, choir members and our Sacristans for helping us to rejoice on this special Solemnity.

FR SHAUN is on annual leave for a fortnight. We welcome this weekend Fr Henry Nevin SDS who will celebrate the weekend Masses for us. Please do make him feel welcome! Please be aware that the weekday Masses are suspended whilst Fr Shaun is away. Please see the back page for further details. The Holy Rosary will continue on Wednesdays as usual from 10.00am.

REFRESHMENTS are available after the 10.30am Sunday Mass: Thank you to all who have joined the rota. All toilets and baby changing facilities are also now open for use.

EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR OUR YOUNGER PARISHIONERS are due out soon. To our young students who will receive their A-level, T-level, and BTEC, GCSE and other vocational results over the coming days and weeks, we hope that the grades are what you had hoped for. Remember that you are loved and supported by your family and by your church family too. Whatever your results, you are valued and we keep you in our prayers.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! If you are preparing to go away, we wish you a safe journey and a restful break. If you happen to be listed on a church rota for any particular ministry, please help us, by arranging cover with someone else on your rota. If you are finding this difficult, contact Mandy in the church office or Daphne in the Sacristy. This will help us enormously with the smooth running of the Masses and for all that we do together. Thank you in advance. Enjoy your time away and may God's speed be with you on your return.

HOLY BAPTISM is a joyous Sacrament We greatly encourage Holy Baptism for babies of families who regularly attend Mass here. It is recommended that Holy Baptism if at all possible takes place within baby's first year. Baptism leaflets explaining this Holy Sacrament, are available on the porch table **.**

THE RACE IS ON (AGAIN) WITH TORCHES AND TENSION! Dear St John Fisher family, On 20th September at 8pm, Parishioners Connor and Alison will once again lace up their trainers, don their glowing accessories, and head out for the Shine Night Walk London 10K, raising funds for **Cancer Research**. They did this before. Yes, they raised a glorious £875 between them last time. Yes, it brought out a slight — ahem — competitive spark in their marriage (they may or may not have been sneakily checking each other's fundraising pages daily). So naturally… they're doing it all again! And here's where YOU come in. They need your support — spiritually, emotionally, and most importantly, financially. But be warned: If you donate to Alison, you're investing in grace, humility, and the undisputed better walker. If you donate to Connor, well… you're fuelling a man who once tried to overtake someone on a zebra crossing "for the points." Either way, every penny goes to the incredible work of cancer research — supporting people in their time of need. So whether you're Team Wife or Team Husband, you're really Team support. Let the fundraising games begin!

For Connor's **Cancer Research** Giving Page Thank you!

For Alison's **Cancer Research** Giving Page Thank you!

SOMETHING SPECIAL TO LOOK FORWARD TO … Sunday 5th October 4.00pm – 6.00pm in St. John Fisher Church. The Spelthorne Orchestra will be performing a concert for all the family to enjoy. All proceeds will go to the Church Hall Renovation and Lourdes funds. Please save the date!

LITTLE CHURCH AT THE 10.30AM SUNDAY MASS will resume on 7th September. For now, please encourage your children to use the Children's Mass sheets, Mass cards and Missals during the Mass which are available next to the regular Mass sheets, at the back of the church. Thank you.

ASSISTED SUICIDE UPDATE! The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday 12 September. Right To Life UK has launched an *Easy Action* tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill. **Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds!**

A MESSAGE FROM THE GREENO CENTRE: This year Christmas Day at the Greeno is celebrating 35 years of Community Christmas Day Lunches. To mark this occasion we are holding a 35th Birthday Party on Sunday 21st September 3pm to 5pm at the Old School Building, New Road, Littleton TW17 0QQ. We are inviting anyone who has been involved with the lunches, whether by pledging vegetables or gifts, volunteering in the centre on the day or in the lead up to the event, or have been a volunteer driver. Also, do you have any photos of previous years' lunches, especially the early years? We would love to borrow them to put on a display of photos at the birthday party. If you wish to come along on the 21st September, or have any photos to share, please get in touch at christmasgreeno@gmail.com or call/text on 07407 491027 by 14th September.

FOOD BANK DROP OFF: Thank you if you have been dropping off food donations. You are extraordinarily generous, towards those who live locally, who are struggling at the moment.

COLLECTIONS AT MASSES: Last weekend loose collections: £279.10. Standing orders/online & card donations for the month of July were £984.84 per week. Whatever way you support the continuing work we do here at SJF, thank you. We seriously couldn't do all the good things we do without your support.

PARISH WEB SITE: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton or if reading online just click here: Roman Catholic Parish of Shepperton – Church of St John Fisher (rcdow.org.uk)

THE HOLY ROSARY for those who wish will be prayed in church on Wednesday mornings - see back page for details. If you would like to know how to pray this lovely devotion - just come along and you will be guided. You will be most welcome.

SPONSORING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP is a lovely thing to do for a departed loved one or a particular intention. There are some possibilities in the month of September. The cost is just £5 for the whole week. Please contact Mandy in the Parish Office for available dates

BE FAMILIAR... with our church exit doors and routes. You may have been coming to SJF for many years or are at SJF for the first time. It's always a good idea to look around to see where your nearest exit route is, in the event that we ever need to evacuate our building at short notice. Thank you.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR SPAM.. a message to our new Little Church volunteers, thank you again for signing up - we are delighted you are sharing in this important ministry. May I ask you to check your *Spam file* in case my email to you, a week or so ago didn't get through, and thank you to those who have responded already. Fr Shaun

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
is sponsored this week for a private intention.

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
MARGARET GANE RIP & BRIAN BIGGINS RIP
ANNIVERSARIES THIS AUGUST
Max Maksymiuw, Annie Reilly, Patricia Collins, James Patrick Dyer, Joan Delahunty, Alf Pitfield James Sangster, Betty Mitchell, John Pegley, Michael Hayes, Fedor Jan Putter
Florence Kershaw, Liokadia Hughes, Frances Rosa Grant, Patricia Leale, Lt Col Kevin Ryan MBE William Roberts, Audrey Willson Joan Heffernan, Anne Harris, Jake Harvey Latter, Fr Tom Quinn. Anna Gammond, Helen Diekmann.
Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord