THIS WEEK AT SJF

Sun ✠ 21 Dec	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	5.00pm Sat Vigil 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	For Margaret Mescall RIP Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish For Ainsley Godfrey RIP (5th anniversary)
Mon 22 Dec	Advent Feria	No Mass Today	
Tue 23 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Noel Brown RIP (Birthday)
Wed ✠ 24 Dec	Advent Feria (morning)	Mass at 9.30am	For Nuala & Kevin Doyle RIP
Night ✠	CHRISTMAS EVE  MERRY CHRISTMAS!	FAMILY VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS 5.00PM CAROLS & READINGS FROM 9.30PM CHRISTMAS MASS DURING THE NIGHT 10.00PM	Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish
Thurs ✠ 25 Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY 	MASS OF THE NATIVITY 8.30AM (said) MASS OF THE NATIVITY 10.30AM (with carols)	Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish
Fri 26 Dec	ST STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR	No Mass Today	
Sat 27 Dec	ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST	No Morning Mass	
Sun ✠ 28 Dec	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm 8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish For Conceicao (CM) Dias For Yvette D'Souza RIP

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER
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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 21st December 2025
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Weekly Newsletter

Sunday cycle
Readings
Year A
Advent 4
Psalter Week 4

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH



JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MAY THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR BRING JOY TO YOUR HEARTS AND PEACE IN YOUR LIVES

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.

A JOYFUL STEP CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS! This Sunday we enter a beautiful new stage of Advent. After reflecting on the Lord's Second Coming, we now turn our hearts to the wonder of His First Coming. Today's readings invite us to walk alongside Mary and Joseph, to marvel at the circumstances surrounding the conception of Jesus, and to ponder Joseph's courageous response.

The promise of a Saviour springs from the House of David, and Matthew makes this connection crystal clear by quoting Isaiah: *"The virgin shall conceive and bear a son."* Joseph, a descendant of King David, is called to take his place in God's great story, a story that stretches across centuries and now reaches its breathtaking climax. What was "promised long ago" (as the Second Reading reminds us) is about to take flesh in Mary's womb. This is the moment when eternity touches time, when hope becomes reality. As we light the fourth Advent candle, let's rejoice that God is faithful to His promises—and that His love is drawing near in Jesus, Emmanuel, "God-with-us." Happy Sunday!

GOING AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR? May God speed you on your journey. Return back safely and refreshed.

THANK YOU… to the dedicated army of angels who have been preparing the church for us all to enjoy this Christmas. Thank you to our sacristans, cleaners, laundry ladies, flower arrangers, church decorators, tree arrangers, festoon light hangers. Thank you also to our musicians and singers and altar servers. Even in the busyness of your own home preparations, you have made time for the Lord and his Church. You are all wonderful!

IMPORTANT ROTAS! Over the forthcoming Christmastide, if you are signed up for the ministry of reading or are an extraordinary minister of the eucharist thank you! If however you are unable to make your commitment, please do swap with another on the rota and let us know.

LITTLE CHURCH CHRISTMAS BREAK: There will be no Little Church for the next 2 Sundays: 28th December and 4th January. Little Church will return after the Christmas break on Sunday 11th January. We wish all our young people and their families, happy Christmas holiday times.

WE SADLY REPORT the death of Fred Gwyther who died on 4th December. In the past years, with declining health he has received the Sacraments at home. Fred's Funeral Mass will take place here at 11.30am on Tuesday 30th December. Please pray for dear Fred and for the repose of his soul and for Mary, his wife and the family. Go forth Christian soul, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

COMING SOON — LOVE IN ACTION… watch this space!

CINDERELLA AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING GLASS SLIPPER: The S.J.F Panto is back!!!! Get ready for a fun, family panto full of laughs, big characters, and local am-dram talent! Cheer, boo, and join the chaos in this joyful community show. There will be 5 performances; Saturday 24th January at 2pm and 6.30pm, Sunday 25th January at 2pm and Saturday 31st January at 2pm and 6.30pm. More details can be found on the poster at the back of church or by contacting Katrina on 07921 409402 (correct mobile). or you can book directly using the poster QR code

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: are available at the back of church. They are an opportunity for you to make an offering in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received in this holy place over the past year. These are NOT a personal gift to Fr Shaun, but go towards the annual stipend (salary), which he receives directly through the diocese. If you are a tax payer and would like us to Gift Aid your kind offering, please use a blue Gift-Aid envelope. We can then reclaim 25p for every pound you donate, at no extra cost to you. Thank you.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB: Offerings made at the Christmas Crib this year will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society, who help families in need. Thank you for your generosity.

THE GREENO CENTRE: The Community Christmas Day Lunch is back again, its 35th Year. Thank you for your continuing support. The Pledge Board for vegetables, tombola and monetary donations is on the porch table . We appreciate anything that you can contribute. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION CLOSES SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER. Parents, please return fully completed Registration Forms with all the items requested to the office. A reminder also that children, prior to the start of the programme need to know how to make the sign of the cross, say the Our Father and the Hail Mary. This is important as we want all children to begin at the same level. Children find it difficult to catch up if they don't know the basics! Please keep our volunteer catechists, Stephanie and Mary in your prayers, as they make preparations.

COLLECTIONS: The weekend loose money offertory collection is really important and continues for those who do not use a bank standing order, use the card machine or make your offering on-line. Your kind donations support absolutely everything we do, so whatever way you support the good work here at SJF, thank you. Last weekend the combined loose money collections across the three Masses was £389.67 (week previous= £268.35) Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online in October averaged £985.08 (Sept = £1059.58pw). Thank you.

ADVANCE NOTICE: WARM HUB We will be running our Warm Hub again next year. These are lovely sessions where anyone can come to our hall, get a warm drink and social interaction which can be so important in the winter months. We hope to run 8 sessions starting on Thursday 8th January. Set up will be from 9.30am and each session will run from 10-11.30am with a clear away afterwards. Last time we had lots of lovely volunteers on a rota basis. If you are able to help at all this year please let Mandy know in the office – shepperton@rcdow.org.uk Thank you.

REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED after the 10.30am Sunday Mass in the Church Hall - you are very welcome. The toilets & baby nappy changing are situated by the front entrance to the Church Hall.

A SOLEMN MASS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR IN WESTMINSTER DIOCESE will be celebrated by Cardinal Nichols, at 12.00 noon at Westminster Cathedral on 28th December.

FOLLOWING THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACK AT BONDI BEACH Cardinal Nichols sent the following message of sympathy to the UK Chief Rabbi:

"I write to offer my deepest condolences following the devastating terrorist attack at Bondi Beach. I was profoundly saddened to hear of the loss of life and the injuries sustained, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to you and to the entire Jewish community. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of those who were killed, with all who were injured, and with all who mourn. Such senseless violence is a tragic reminder of the pain that hatred and terror inflict on innocent people, and it is a hurt felt across faiths and nations. In this time of grief, I hope you find strength and comfort in the outpouring of solidarity from people of all backgrounds who stand with you against violence and antisemitism."

The Holy Father, Pope Leo said: *"Enough with these forms of antisemitic violence! ... We must eliminate hatred from our hearts."*

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
this week is for the repose of the soul of
Noel Brown at this time of his 87th Birthday

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
FRED GWYTHER RIP

ANNIVERSARIES THIS DECEMBER
Lynn-Marie Szczelkun, Herbert Bishop, James Loftus, Dominic Dyer, Alice Cane, Maurice Dodd, Robert Tams, Terry Ryan, Francis Curley, Lillian Maloney, John Cunningham, Sheila Barrett, Daniel Hodgson, Wilbert West-Watson, Alan South, Marina Schwartz, John Byrne, Sheila Passey, Mary McCarthy, Denis Miranda, Lorna Troop, Reg Day, Fr Dominic Byrne, Gavin Boyle, Patrick Cronin, Maureen Greta Pearce, Margaret Bigwood, Joe Delahunty.

Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord