THIS WEEK AT SJF

Sun ✠ 28 Dec	**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish For Conceicao (CM) Dias For Yvette D'Souza RIP
Mon 29 Dec	ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr	No Mass Today	
Tue 30 Dec	6th Day in the Octave of Christmas	Mass at 9.30am **Funeral Mass at 11.30am**	For Lorna Troop RIP **For the repose of the soul of Fred Gwyther**
Wed 31 Dec	7th Day in the Octave of Christmas	Mass at 9.30am Holy Rosary follows Mass	For Sarah Peddle RIP
Thurs ✠ 01 Jan	**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**	**MASS AT 12.00 NOON ONLY**	Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish
Fri 02 Jan	ST BASIL THE GREAT & ST GREGORY NAZIANZEN	No Mass Today	
Sat 03 Jan	Christmas Feria	No Morning Mass	
Sun ✠ 04 Jan	**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish For John Mascarenhas RIP For Patrick Cronin RIP

HOLY ROSARY PRAYERS: Wednesday morning following the 9.30am Mass.
EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION follows after Mass on Fridays. **(Except 2nd Jan)**
THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
(Confession) Saturdays at 4.15pm - 4.45pm or by arrangement.
PRAYER REQUEST BOX: at the back of the church.
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 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 A Weekday reading for Christmas

Sunday 28th December 2025
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
Weekly Newsletter



MAY THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR BRING JOY TO YOUR HEARTS AND PEACE IN YOUR LIVES NOW AND IN 2026

THE HOLY FAMILY: LOVE, FAITH AND A FEW DETOURS

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, a family that reminds us that holiness doesn't mean life is easy. In fact, their story sounds more like a travel blog with unexpected twists: a midnight escape to Egypt, a return journey, and settling back into Nazareth. No luxury hotels, just faith and trust in God's plan.

The Gospel account today shows Joseph as the quiet hero. He doesn't say a word in the holy scriptures, but his actions speak volumes. When God says "Flee to Egypt," Joseph doesn't argue, he packs! Three virtues shine through their story today: **Faithful Obedience:** Joseph listens and acts. No procrastination, no "let me sleep on it." He trusts God completely. This is a challenge for us in our untrusting world! **Protective Love:** Mary and Joseph create a home where Jesus is safe and loved. Our homes too can be "domestic churches" not perfect, but places where prayer and forgiveness are as common as cups of tea. **Hope in Uncertainty:** Life threw curveballs at Mary and Joseph, but they never lost hope. Families today face their own challenges, but the Holy Family reminds us: God is with us in every detour.

As we approach a New Year, let us make a resolution to pray together, laugh often, and forgive quickly. And if your family feels like a long way from the Holy Family, take heart - God works wonders in ordinary homes and lives.

Pray:

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless our families. Help us to live with faith, hope, and love, so that our homes may reflect the warmth of your presence. Amen.

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 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.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ALREADY… His Holiness Pope Leo has appointed the Right Reverend Richard Moth as Archbishop of Westminster. Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3 July 1982, Archbishop-elect Moth has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015. Prior to that, he was the Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009 to 2015. Archbishop-elect Moth will become the 12th Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who has served in the role since 2009. Cardinal Nichols will now become Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Westminster until Archbishop-elect Moth is Installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 14 February 2026. On hearing of his appointment, Archbishop-elect Moth said: "I am moved greatly by the trust that Pope Leo has placed in me, in appointing me to the Diocese of Westminster. As I prepare to move to the Diocese, I am so grateful for the support being given to me by Cardinal Vincent Nichols at this time. He has given dedicated service to the Diocese and will be missed greatly. "Serving the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton has given me the wonderful opportunity of sharing the Church's mission with lay faithful and clergy, and I give thanks for the many blessings of these last ten years. "My first task will be to get to know the priests and people of Westminster and I look forward, now, to serving them. With them, and building on the firm foundations that have been laid by so many down the years, I look forward to continuing the great adventure that is the life of the Church and witness to the Gospel."

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 and celebrations, you have made time for the Lord and his Church. You are all wonderful. Our Church this Christmastide would look and feel very different without your faithful and sacrificial efforts! Thank you.

THANK YOU for the many Christmas cards and personal gifts received from parishioners over the past days. Your kind words in cards and generosity are very humbling. Thank you. As I approach my seventh anniversary in January as your Parish Priest, I am blessed by such kindness.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD: MASS, NEW YEAR'S DAY AT 12.00 NOON As we begin the New Year, we place ourselves under the protection of the Mother of God, who is also our mother. May she help us to keep and ponder all things, unafraid of trials, in the joyful certainty that the Lord is faithful and knows how to change crosses into resurrections. (Pope Francis)
And just a reminder that this will be the only Mass here on New Year's Day.

THE WARM HUB BEGINS IN THE CHURCH HALL ON THURSDAY 8TH JAN. We are open to anyone and everyone. These are lovely sessions where anyone can come to our hall, have a hot drink and have a chat, which is so important in the winter months. We open at 10.00am until 11.30am. Come along, bring your friends and best of all it's free! Thank you to the people who have already volunteered to help with the Warm Hub in January and February next year. Mandy will prepare the rota of helpers on 30th December and distribute. If anyone else is able to volunteer, could you please let Mandy know before 30th December. Thank you

LITTLE CHURCH CHRISTMAS BREAK: There will be no Little Church for this Sunday 28th December and next Sunday 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.

COMING SOON — LOVE IN ACTION… watch this space!

THE FUNERAL MASS for Fred Gwyther who died on 4th December will take place here at 11.30am this coming 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.

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

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.

HAVE A MASS OFFERED FOR YOUR INTENTIONS: To request a Mass intention, in thanksgiving, for a birthday, wedding anniversary, for someone who is ill or who has died, please contact Mandy in the office. (Wednesday and Thursday mornings). 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, please add your name and contact details so we can advise when the Mass will be offered.

HOLY BAPTISM is a joyous Sacrament We greatly encourage Holy Baptism for babies of families who attend here. It is recommended that Holy Baptism takes place within baby's first year. Baptism leaflets explaining this Holy Sacrament, with important information including the requirements for Catholic godparents, are available from the church porch table.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION CLOSES THIS WEEKEND - 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 £293.26 (week previous= £389.67) Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online in November averaged £959.58 (Oct = £985.08pw). 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.

WILL HARDY who many of you know locally has a new book out which is available on Amazon — delivered directly to your front door. The link for more information and/or to order is here: https://www.amazon.co.uk/Mystery-Past-Reflections-history/dp/0954128524

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
this week is for the repose of the souls of
Reg and Rita Day

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
FRED GWYTHER RIP

ANNIVERSARIES THIS JANUARY

Ellen Mary Walsh, Anne Atfield, John Gregson, Arthur Mitchell, Francis Kane, Charles Butterworth, Michael Thompson, Michael Tinsley, Margaret Anderson, Marina Schwartz, Mario Coppi, Margaret Walker, Marion Dollery, Robert Ekkel, Tony Hill, Frances Reynolds, Jarek Jedrzejowski

Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord