THIS WEEK AT SJF

Sun ✠ 07 Dec	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Grace and John Walmsley RIP Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish For Margaret Bigwood RIP (3rd anniversary)
Mon 08 Dec	**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patron of the Diocese**	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 09 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Graham Hopkins RIP
Wed 10 Dec	Advent Feira	Mass at 9.30am **Holy Rosary after Mass**	For Rosemary North RIP
Thurs 11 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Angela White - for a full recovery
Fri 12 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am **Followed by Exposition & Benediction**	For Teresa Almeida RIP
Sat 13 Dec	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	No morning Mass at SJF this week	
Sun ✠ 14 Dec	**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **GAUDETE SUNDAY**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish In memory of Kevin & Laura Corneille RIP For Pauline Lynch RIP (birthday)

Holy Rosary Prayers: Wednesday morning following the 9.30am Mass.
Exposition and Benediction is after Mass on Fridays.
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

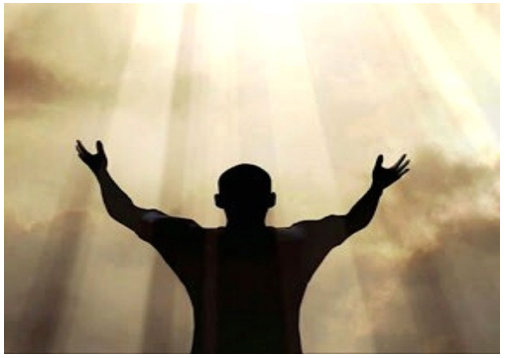
We are a registered charity No: 233699
To make a donation or to make an offering for a Mass intention go to:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/donate/

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 7th December 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Weekly Newsletter

Sunday cycle Readings Year A

Advent 2 Psalter Week 2





Advent… it's more than a countdown to Christmas

As we journey through the first three weeks of Advent, the Church invites us to lift our gaze beyond the manger and toward the horizon of eternity. These early days of Advent are not primarily about preparing for Christmas festivities, they are about preparing for the Second Coming of Christ. The liturgy speaks with urgency: *"Stay awake! Be ready!"* This is a season of hope, but also of watchfulness.

If we reduce Advent to a mere countdown to Christmas, today's readings and the figure of John the Baptist will seem puzzling. John does not appear to announce a cosy holiday; he comes as a fiery prophet, calling us to conversion and readiness for the Lord who will come again in glory. His voice echoes across the centuries: *Prepare the way of the Lord!*

Notice something striking in today's holy scriptures: the focus is not on an event, but on a Person - Jesus Christ. Isaiah paints a vivid portrait of the promised Messiah: a ruler of justice and peace. St John the Baptist points us toward Him with urgency and humility. St. Paul urges us to imitate Christ, to live in harmony and hope as we await his coming.

This "thumbnail sketch" of the Messiah is a gift. It shapes our expectation so that when Christmas arrives, we recognize the child in the manger as the same Lord who will come again in glory. Advent, then, is a season of double vision: we look back to Bethlehem, but we also look forward to the day when Jesus will be "all in all."

So, we enter these weeks with hearts awake and hope alive. Advent is not passive waiting, it is active preparation. Conversion, prayer, and charity are the ways we smooth the path for the Lord. When he comes, whether at Christmas or at the end of time, may he find us ready.

Happy Sunday!

WELCOME TO ST JOHN FISHER, SHEPPERTON
This newsletter gives some information for the week ahead. If you are new to SJF church, it is great to have you with us, you are very welcome! All Masses at SJF are live streamed via YouTube: 'St John Fisher Shepperton'.

WE ARE STILL PRINTING IN VINTAGE BLACK AND WHITE Printing in colour is no longer possible and our photocopier is so old, that we can on longer get replacement parts. Maybe St Nicholas (Santa Claus) will deliver an early Christmas gift to us?

DURING ADVENT … at the Holy Mass, The Gloria is omitted (with the exception of feast days). We save this beautiful song, sung by the angels in heaven, for the great celebration at Christmas. We have also moved to the new liturgical Year A for Sunday Mass readings and Year 2 for weekday Mass readings. During this Holy season of preparing, why not spend some additional time in prayer, in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction is every Friday after the 9.30am Mass. The gentle Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) is available on Saturday evenings from 4.15pm – 4.45pm and by arrangement.

CONGRATULATIONS to Harry Parsons who received the beautiful initiation Sacrament of Holy Baptism this weekend. We keep Harry in our prayers and pray for his parents who have set him on a wonderful adventure of faith.

NEXT SUNDAY AT THE 10.30AM MASS … you are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from your Christmas Cribs at home, to be blessed here at the 10.30am Sunday Mass on Sunday 14th December. This is a beautiful Advent Tradition, instituted by Pope St John Paul II during his Papacy and continued in parishes around the world. We pray that this encourages our young children to make the connection between the Nativity set at home and the local church where they worship each weekend. Following the blessing, families are encouraged to take their 'Bambinelli' home, wrap it up and open it as a family on Christmas morning, where the youngest member places it in the crib. A gift of the presence of Christ in your home this Christmas.

COMING SOON — LOVE IN ACTION… watch this space!

SHEPPERTON MATTERS MAGAZINE has a half page notice advertising key Masses over Christmas at SJF. You can see this on page 18 of the December issue. We are very grateful to the parishioner who sponsored the cost of the advertisement on our behalf.

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 07924 409402. or you can book directly using the poster QR code

A CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING (for use at home)
Lord God, we praise you for the light of creation – sun, moon and stars; we praise you for the light of Israel – Law, Prophets and Scripture; we praise you for Jesus Christ our everlasting light. As we light our tree, may our hearts be filled with joy, and may all who delight in this tree be brought to the light of knowledge and the joy of Salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 - please sign up.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. Registration forms are now available from the back of the church for children who attend Mass here. 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.

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.

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 £274.65 (week previous=£332.08) Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online in October averaged £985.08 (Sept = £1059.58pw). Thank you.

LITTLE CHURCH AT THE 10.30AM SUNDAY MASS Parents please help us to help you in teaching the faith to your little ones by encouraging your children to attend.

SO THAT YOU KNOW… there will be no Saturday morning Mass at 10.00am this coming Saturday 13th Dec. The Sat evening Vigil Mass is at 5.00pm.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - We raised £99.84p from cash donations for Remembrance Sunday poppies this year. Thank you to all who donated . It all goes to a worthy cause. The district total was £6,124.34p Thank you also to Bernard Troop who organises the distribution of boxes in Shepperton.

ADVANCED 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. We will then need to clear away afterwards. Last year we had lots of lovely volunteers to help and they did this on a rota basis. If you are able to help at all this year – even if just for one or two of the weeks, please let Mandy know in the office – shepperton@rcdow.org.uk. Mandy will then prepare a rota accordingly. Thank you.

LITTLE CHURCH AT THE 10.30AM SUNDAY MASS Parents please help us to help you in teaching the faith to your little ones by encouraging your children to attend. If your child has already made their First Holy Communion, they can still attend Little Church and help the Catechists by sitting alongside our younger children and encouraging them.

CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN FISHER

WEDNESDAY 24TH DEC - CHRISTMAS EVE
VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS AT 5.00PM
Carols and Readings begin at 9.30pm
CHRISTMAS MASS DURING THE NIGHT AT 10.00PM
THURSDAY 25TH DEC - CHRISTMAS DAY
MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
AT 8.30AM & 10.30AM
(Friday 26th Dec - No Morning Mass)
SATURDAY 27TH DEC (No Morning Mass)
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
VIGIL MASS FOR SUNDAY AT 5.00PM
SUNDAY 28TH DEC
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
MORNING MASSES AT 8.30AM & 10.30AM
(Mon 29th Dec - No Morning Mass)
Tue 30th Dec & Wed 31st Dec - Mass at 9.30am
THURSDAY 1ST JAN 2026
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
MASS AT 12.00 NOON
(Fri 2nd Jan - No Morning Mass)
SATURDAY 3RD JAN (No Morning Mass)
2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
VIGIL MASS FOR SUNDAY AT 5.00PM
SUNDAY 4TH JAN
2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
MORNING MASSES AT 8.30AM & 10.30AM
TUESDAY 6TH JAN
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Holy Day)
MASSES AT 9.30AM & 7.00PM

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
this week is for the repose of the soul of
Teresa Almeida RIP

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
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