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 of Obligation)
MASSES AT 9.30AM & 7.00PM

THIS WEEK AT SJF

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)
Mon 15 Dec	Advent Feria	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 16 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Louis & May McKeough RIP
Wed 17 Dec	Advent Feira	Mass at 9.30am **Holy Rosary**	For Noreen Galvin RIP & Joan Pears RIP (sisters)
Thurs 18 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Francis Paul RIP & all departed family members
Fri 19 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 9.30am **Exposition & Benediction**	For Jimmy and all departed members of the Mullahey family RIP
Sat 20 Dec	Advent Feria	Mass at 10.00am	For Reg Day RIP (birthday anniversary)
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)

ST JOHN FISHER SHEPPERTON

Sunday cycle Readings
Year A
Advent 3
Psalter Week 3

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 14th December 2025
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GAUDETE SUNDAY
Weekly Newsletter



ARE YOU THE ONE? ADVENT DOUBTS AND CHRISTMAS HOPE

This Sunday's readings feel like a sequel to last week, but with a twist! Isaiah continues painting a vivid picture of what the Messiah will do, and St Paul gently reminds us to keep waiting patiently for the Lord's coming. But then comes John the Baptist, and things get interesting.

Last week, John was full of confidence: "Someone is coming!" This week, in the Gospel of St Matthew, chapter 11, we find him in prison, sending a message to Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

What a question! And what a moment for us to pause. Even John, the fiery prophet and fearless preacher has doubts! And Jesus answers not with a simple "yes," but by pointing to the signs:
"The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news preached to them." In other words: Look at what's happening. The promises are being fulfilled.

For us, these readings are an invitation to lean into the excitement of Advent. The prophecies of Isaiah aren't just poetic words, they are coming alive in Jesus. Every candle we light on the Advent wreath, every hymn we sing, every act of kindness we share is part of that great story of hope breaking into the world.

So let's hold onto Isaiah's images and John's question as we journey toward Christmas. Because soon, when we gaze at the child in the manger, we'll know: This is the One, the promised Messiah. God with us. The answer to every longing of the human heart. Happy Sunday!

Advent Prayer

GOD OUR FATHER
HELP US KEEP WATCH
AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH
AS WE WAIT FOR THE COMING
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
WAKE US UP
AND FIND US READY
TO SERVE AND PRAISE HIM.
AMEN.

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'.

THIS SUNDAY at the 10.30am Mass, families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their Christmas Cribs at home, to be blessed here.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

Many thanks to Kerry at Quality Fruits in Shepperton, who kindly donated our Church Christmas Tree this year. We are also very grateful for the help provided by Gerry, Jean and Joe in erecting and dressing the trees. Thank you also to Joe who, with Fr Shaun erected the festoon lights outside. Thank you all.

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, so that we don't have gaps at this extra busy time of the year. Thank you.

WELCOME BACK TO COLOUR! We now have a new photocopier in the church office. The copier was a large and unexpected expense of £1,859.25 on the church. Thank you to parishioners who have kindly made unexpected donations to offset some of the expense.

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.

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.

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 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.

GOING AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS? May God speed you on your journey. Return back safely, sound and refreshed. If you are visiting St John Fisher over Christmastide, or you are a returning Catholic after a long time away, you are very welcome.

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.

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 £268.35 (week previous= £274.65) 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.

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 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.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY
this week is for the intentions of
Shirley Ayers and her family

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.

HOLY ROSARY PRAYERS: Wednesday morning following the 9.30am Mass. **EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION** follows 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.

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.

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
FRED GWYTHER RIP (4.12.2025)

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

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER

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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/