THIS WEEK AT SJF

Sun ✠ 15 Mar	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT** LAETARE SUNDAY & MOTHERING SUNDAY	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Valentin Vasilev - for a speedy recovery Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish For Jackie Joe O'Donnell RIP
Mon 16 Mar	Lent feria	No Mass today	
Tue 17 Mar	ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	Mass at 9.30am **FHC class - hall 5.00pm**	For Daphne - birthday good wishes (on 19th)
Wed 18 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am **Holy Rosary follows Mass**	For Francis Paul RIP and for the souls of all priests and religious in purgatory
Thurs 19 Mar	**St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM**	Mass at 9.30am **Confirmation Class 7.00pm**	For Sir Joseph Leon Matthieu Perez RIP
Fri 20 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 9.30am **Exposition follows Mass** **Stations of the Cross 7.00pm**	For Fr Tom Quinn RIP (birthday)
Sat 21 Mar	Lent feria	Mass at 10.00am	For C-V Pepper RIP (5th anniversary)
Sun ✠ 22 Mar	**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**	**Sat Vigil Mass 5.00pm** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro Populo - for the people of this Parish For William Diekmann RIP For Gavril Pista RIP (birthday)

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.

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/

Sunday cycle
Lent Readings Year A
Weekdays
Lent Wk 4
Divine Office
Wk 4

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH



SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
Laetare Sunday & Mothering Sunday



WHAT IF THE GREATEST BLINDNESS IS NOT IN THE EYES - BUT IN THE HEART?
The Holy Scriptures invite us to examine how we see one another, and whether we truly see the world through the eyes of Christ.
In the first reading, Samuel is reminded that *"the Lord sees not as man sees."* While we often judge by appearances, God looks deeply into the heart. David, the unexpected, overlooked youngest son is chosen because God sees what others fail to recognise.

St Paul then calls us to live as "children of light," refusing to let darkness or indifference cloud our vision and in the Holy Gospel, Jesus heals the man born blind using the simplest of materials: saliva and earth. What the world might dismiss as ordinary, or even unclean, becomes, in Jesus' hands, the means of restoration and grace.

This theme leads us directly to our Christian calling to put *Love into Action.* To see as Jesus sees and allow our faith to take a visible, practical form. Love is expressed in the way we treat those who struggle, whom the world overlooks. Catholic Social Teaching tells us to have a *Preferential Option for the Poor.* In a world marked by widening gaps between rich and poor, our faith insists that the needs of the vulnerable come first, not as an optional extra, but as a Gospel priority and a sign of our authentic Christian witness.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, may the Lord open our eyes and hearts, to see with clarity, love and purpose - and act with courage. May our lives shine with the light of God's compassion, as we pray to Jesus: *"Lord help me to see!"* Have a happy Sunday and a continued holy Lent.

WELCOME as we continue on our pilgrimage through this Holy Season of Lent. It's a season of fasting, praying and giving. As we prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter, we are reminded that Lent is not just about what we give up. It's about who we become! How is God calling you this Lent?

SO WHAT IS LAETARE SUNDAY? Laetare (Latin for 'Rejoice') comes from our Mass entrance antiphon. It's the Church's way of giving us a "boost" as we prepare for the darkness of Holy Week and especially for Good Friday. We are being readied to experience the darkness, before the Resurrection light which awaits us on Easter Sunday.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with the World Day of Prayer Service which we hosted this year on Friday 6th March, with refreshments in the hall after the service. It was a wonderful opportunity for people from different Christian denominations, in our local area, to come together for a shared time of prayer, reflection, praise and Christian fellowship. The total of cash and cheques collected on the day for the charities supported by the World Day of Prayer was £511.75. There will be another £61.81 of gift aid to add when it is claimed, making a grand total of £572.56.

MOTHERING SUNDAY is an ancient title given to this Sunday - midway through Lent. It is traditionally the day that the faithful would go to visit, *to go a mothering*, to the church of their Baptism. Nowadays this weekend is also used as an occasion to give thanks for our mothers, living and departed. We wish all our mothers a blessing on this day and we pray for the souls of our dear departed mothers and grandmothers.

STARTING THIS WEEK: KNIT AND NATTER … every Tuesday afternoon from 1-3pm in the Church hall. Everyone is welcome, just come along and bring something to work on which can be: knitting, crochet, embroidery, tapestry, sewing or anything crafty really...whatever you want. Or you may just want to come for the 'Natter' part and not bring anything….which you are most welcome to do. Just come along anytime between 1pm and 3pm – we are very flexible. We will serve tea and coffee mid-way through the session.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION UPDATE: Friday 20th March 7.00pm-10.00pm SJF Hall. Come along and join in the fun – licenced bar and dancing. The entry is £5 per person, payable on the door. Children under 16 go FREE! Please sign-up in the church porch, so that we have an idea of numbers. We look forward to celebrating with you all.

AED/CPR AWARENESS TRAINING: Thursday 26th March 10.00-12.00noon in the Church Hall. Could you help save a life in the event of an emergency? Come along to this session and you will have much more knowledge on how to do so. Our skilled parishioner Joe, will show you what to do and how to use the equipment if needed. Have a go or just watch and learn. There are no age limits. This is a relaxed session all about improving awareness. We will be serving tea and coffee so you can have a nice cuppa too! Let us know if you are interested, to help us with preparations.

GET INTO TEACHING at St Paul's Catholic College, Sunbury Do you have what it takes to become a teacher? If so, St Paul's Catholic College invites you to our 'Get into Teaching' event on Thursday 26th March. Join us for our Open Morning to find out more. 9.30 am - 11.30 am St Paul's Catholic College, Sunbury. To reserve a place at this event, please email: teach@st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk For further information please contact: Mrs Angelina Daniel - adaniel@st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk 01932 783811 Ext 127

CAFOD THANKS: Thank you to all who took part in the Family Fast Day recently. We raised £349.75 to go towards helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves

RENO BERNARDINIS RIP: Reno died at home Thursday evening, 19th February. The date for his Funeral Mass here has been confirmed: Wednesday 25th March at 11.30am followed by burial at Sunbury Cemetery.

SAVE THE DATE!! The Lourdes team will be hosting its annual Quiz Night on Friday 17th April. Keep an eye out for more details!! Tickets will go on sale on the 21st March.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are a lovely Lenten tradition. In this devotion, we make the journey to Calvary with our Lord Jesus, focusing on how he suffered for us and his interactions with those he met on the way. The Stations will continue in church this Friday 20th March at 7.00pm and then, each Friday of Lent. If you are looking for something different to do this Lent, come and join us in this quiet meditative encounter with the Lord.

DISGRUNTLED NEIGHBOUR… was the subject heading of an email received in the office last week. The email referred to the gentleman's frustration at the weekend with some cars being parked on the street without consideration for our neighbours. Please, please do your very best to consider others and the highway code when you park on the street - better still, use our own car park. Our neighbours are very tolerant of the busyness of the church. Let's be neighbourly too. Thank you. Fr Shaun.

GOING SOMEWHERE ON SUNDAY? Did you know that you can still keep your Sunday obligation by joining us for the Vigil Mass (which anticipates Sunday) on Sat' evening at 5.00pm. Why? Well simply because you are part of our parish family and you are missed when you're not with us.

COLLECTIONS AT WEEKEND MASSES: Last weekend the combined loose money collections across the three Masses was £252.09 (week previous: £293.28) Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online in February averaged £908.33per week (January:£996.46). Thank you. The weekend loose money 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. As always - thank you. You are brilliant.

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
St Joseph - 19th March
The Annunciation of the Lord - 25th March
Palm Sunday of Holy Week - 29th March
Maundy Thursday - 2nd April
Good Friday - 3rd April
Holy Saturday - 4th April
Easter Sunday, Resurrection of the Lord - 5th April

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)

SPONSORING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP is a very special thing to do for a departed loved one or a particular intention. There are weeks available in September and going forward. The cost is just £5 for the whole week. Please contact Mandy in the Parish Office for available dates.

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.

A RACE TO LOURDES: William Lavery writes: Beginning on the 1st of March and ending on the 16th of July, follow along as a group of the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage's own volunteers race to see who can make it to Lourdes first in a 1000+ km virtual race! Money raised from this event will be donated to the Diocese of Westminster Lourdes Pilgrimage fund, and will be used to fund the journey of many pilgrims who would otherwise be unable to participate. Please use the QR code if you would like to support us . Thank you.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY THIS WEEK
is offered for the repose of the soul
of C-V Pepper (5th anniversary)
May he rest in peace

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
Tom Bonikowski RIP, Reno Bernardinis RIP
Anne Miles RIP, Colin Brindle RIP,
ANNIVERSARIES THIS MARCH
Denis Ryan, E.J. Cane, Kathleen Sweet,
Rose Ryan, Fr Charles Connor, John Ohlson,
Victoria Roberts, Patricia Macklin,
Mary O'Sullivan, James O'Sullivan, Lynn Guevara,
Maureen Mitchell, Eileen Tams, Helen Bool,
Brian Duffy, Matthew Sawyer, Jane Bermingham,
C-V. Pepper, Mary Cotter, Joy McQuade,
Anne Gandhi.
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord