HOLY WEEK AT SJF

Sun ✠ 29 March With blessing of palm crosses	**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am** **10.30am**	Pro Populo - for the people Pro Populo - for the people Pro Populo - for the people
Mon 30 March	Monday of Holy Week	No Mass at SJF	
Tue 31 March	Tuesday of Holy Week	Confessions 9.00am **Mass at 9.30am**	For Maureen RIP
Wed 01 April	Spy Wednesday of Holy Week	Confessions 9.00am **Mass at 9.30am**	For Grace & Jacob - for protection
Thurs 02 April	THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM BEGINS **MAUNDY THURSDAY** **EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT 7.00PM**	(No Morning Mass) Confessions from 8.00 ish Night Prayer at 8.50pm **Night Watch at the Altar of Repose ends 9.00pm**	Pro Populo - for the people
Fri 03 April Day of fasting & abstinence	**GOOD FRIDAY** **THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD AT 3.00 PM**	**Children's Stations of the Cross at 11.00am** **Evening Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm**	
Sat 04 April	**HOLY SATURDAY** **SEASON OF EASTER** **THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT**	(No Morning Mass) **8.00pm** (as the sun sets)	**Church cleaning and decorating from 9.00am Everyone welcome!** Pro Populo - for the people
Sun ✠ 05 April	**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**	**8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro Populo - for the people Pro Populo - for the people

MAKING CONTACT AT ST JOHN FISHER
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Parish Safeguarding: Mandy Howick (until appointment is made) **sheppertonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk**
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We are a registered charity No: 233699

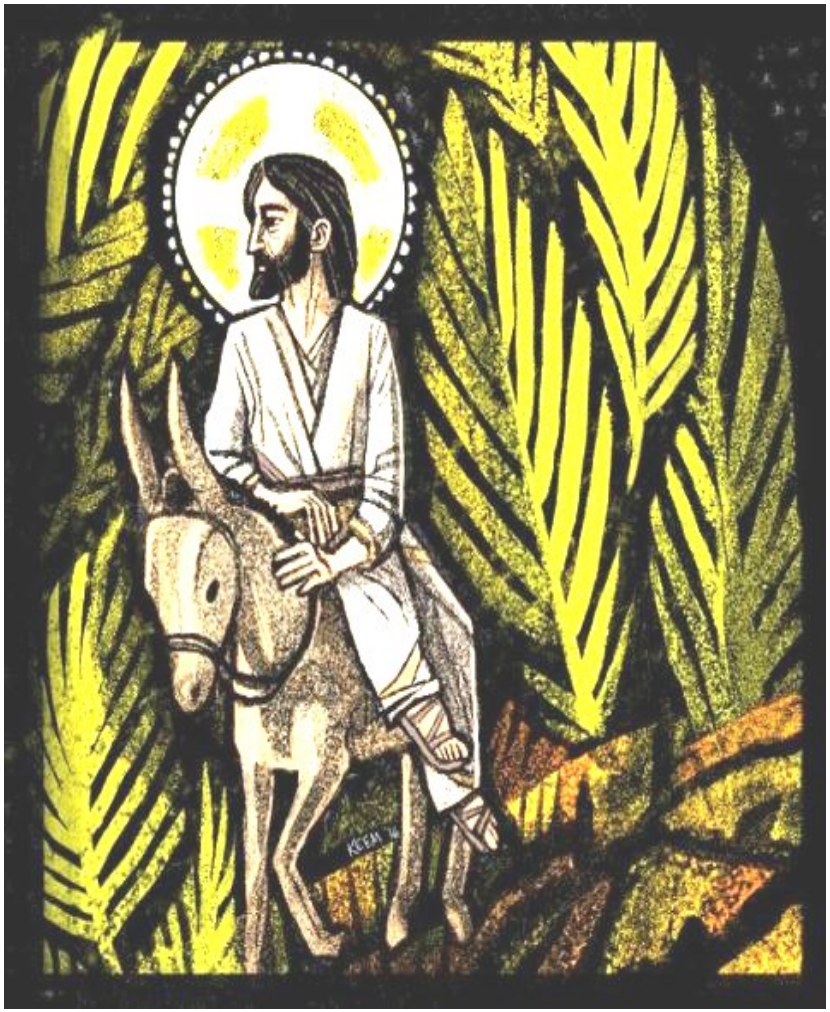
To make a donation or to make an offering for a Mass intention go to:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/shepperton/donate/

ST JOHN FISHER SHEPPERTON

Sunday cycle
Readings Year A
Weekdays
for Holy Week
Divine Office:
Psalter Week 2

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2026
PALM SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



✠ THIS IS HOLY WEEK ✠

WELCOME TO HOLY WEEK AT SJF

THIS HOLY WEEK AND EASTER don't miss out! Reserve some time to be with the Lord. Suspend errands and jobs around the house, especially on Good Friday. Drop everything and enter into the mystery of the faith. For Catholics, this is the most important time of the year. It is our opportunity to renew our Christian identity, to feed the soul, to stand proud and be counted. The great week begins with **PALM SUNDAY**, Jesus' triumphant arrival into Jerusalem - the Holy City. He came as a King, but he came in great humility, riding on a colt. The crowds welcomed the Lord, they waved palm branches and shouted "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord". A simple journey thus became a procession. At Holy Mass on this day, we join in with the first disciples, we bless palm crosses and welcome Jesus Christ as our King! **MAUNDY THURSDAY** reminds us that the great Paschal Triduum has begun. On the night before he died, Jesus gathered his close friends together in an upper room in Jerusalem. Jesus washed their feet like a servant. He gave them a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you". And then he gave them the gift of himself: "This is my Body... this is my Blood". After Supper he went to watch and pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Our celebration, of the Lord's Supper, beginning at 7.00pm, is based on these events. At the end of Holy Mass, the Blessed Sacrament of Jesus is taken in procession to the Altar of Repose. This is our Garden of Gethsemane. The Sacrament is placed there and a Watch of silent prayer is kept until 9.00pm. On this night we have the privileged opportunity of spending some time in prayer with the Lord himself. If you can't attend the Holy Mass, try to stop by, to pray at the Altar of Repose, even for a short while. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), will also be available on this night. **ON GOOD FRIDAY**, Jesus is condemned to death. He carried his cross to Calvary. He was crucified and he died. Our liturgy, beginning at 3.00pm is not a funeral service. We recall the solemn events leading up to the death of Jesus. We read the Passion Gospel, we pray and we venerate the cross. We receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, reserved from the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the night before. Good Friday completes the work of Jesus Christ on earth. He cried out as he died: "It is accomplished". It is a cry of victory. We come to the liturgy on Good Friday out of love for him, who died out of love for us. The importance and solemnity of this day are demonstrated through our fasting & abstinence. **HOLY SATURDAY** Throughout this day, Jesus' Body is in the tomb. This is the time to make our final preparations. From 9.00am onward we prepare the Church for Easter, cleaning & decorating. We then await the First Mass of Easter. The Vigil begins as the sun sets — 8.00pm outside the church, the Holy Fire is blessed together with the new Easter (Paschal) candle. The procession into the darkened church begins and slowly, the light of Christ glows ever stronger, to dispel the darkness of the night, as we too move from darkness into the light of Christ. We hear the readings and we sing the psalms. We bless the waters of Easter and renew our Baptismal promises. And the Church erupts with joy. Bells ring out and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is proclaimed. We celebrate the Holy Mass on this most holy night of the year, because death is conquered, the gates of heaven have been thrown open to believers and hope is renewed. We continue the celebrations on **EASTER SUNDAY**, the Day of Resurrection. This is a day of joy & celebration in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Holy Mass is celebrated at 8.30am and 10.30am. The Christian hope which faith brings, is grounded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and what he means for us. We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future! Holy Week and Easter give us the opportunity to renew our faith and hope. Come to SJF this Holy Week, invite your families and friends and catch a glimpse of heaven.

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OUR CHURCH is a friendly place, but it's easy to reach out to those we already know. Over Holy Week and Easter there may well be visitors and people returning after some time away. A smile or a gentle 'hello' can make all the difference and pointing out where Mass sheets are can be invaluable. Thank you.

MASS TIMES & LITURGIES during Holy Week vary from our usual times. Please check the back of this newsletter for full details.

KNIT & NATTER in the Church Hall is going very well. But just so you'll know, there be no group this week (31st March) but all back to normal on Tuesday 7th April 1-3pm. We are so pleased that this group is popular and you are enjoying it.

THANK YOU TO JOE who ran an excellent AED/ CPR awareness training session last Thursday. It was a very good morning and well attended. Thanks also to Annette, Kelly and our very brilliant cake bakers who provided refreshments.

QUIZ NIGHT: The Lourdes team will be hosting its annual Quiz Night on Friday 17th April. Tickets are on sale this weekend.

AFTERNOON TEA: Bernard and Pirlanta cordially invite you to Afternoon Tea in the beautiful setting of their Garden on Saturday 23rd May from 14.00 until 18:00. If you would like to come along and partake in delicious homemade goodies and a glass of bubbles, please sign up in the porch or call Katrina on 07921 409402. £15pp. All proceeds will go to the Lourdes fund. Deadline for signing up is Wednesday 20th May

EASTER FLOWERS: Can you help us to offset the cost of our Easter Flowers? There is a button on the card machine to help with donations. Thank you - you're "blooming" marvellous!

COLLECTIONS AT WEEKEND MASSES: Last weekend the combined loose money collections across the three Masses was £309.54 (week previous: £294.33) Giving via the bank or through the card machine and online in February averaged £908.33per week (January: £996.46). Thank you. . You are brilliant.

REQUEST BOX: for your prayers, to be offered during the praying of the Holy Rosary, is situated at the back of the church. Rosary Prayers are offered on Wed' following the 9.30am Mass**.**

THE EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES available from the back of the church contribute, in a small way, to the stipend (salary) of clergy at SJF throughout the year. They are not a personal gift, to Fr Shaun. They are however, much appreciated. Thank you

WHAT A GREAT NIGHT WE HAD in celebration of St Patrick. The Church Hall was bustling with singing and dancing and a lot of laughter!. Thank you to all who made it a very spirited occasion, with great food and drink and hospitality. Thank you to Jill who marshalled every one from the social events team and beyond. We raised a very impressive £746.11 towards the church roof fund. Thank you if you helped out and thank you if you attended and supported the event.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN will be at 11.00am in church on Good Friday. This will be led by our First Holy Communion children.

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS are at 7.00pm

HOLY WEEK CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES: this week Fr Shaun will join with other clergy at Our Lady of the Rosary in Staines, Monday 7.00-8.00pm. Here at SJF, Fr Shaun is available before Mass on Tues & Wed, and after Mass on Thursday Evening.

OFFICE MOVES: After six years working in the church office as our brilliant Bookkeeper and prior to this, as Parish Secretary, Traci will be retiring at the end of April. Traci has been exemplary in her dedication and support of the Mission of SJF church and we will miss her greatly, We wish Traci and her husband Rich, a very happy and fruitful retirement together.
In order to continue Traci's good work, there is a link below with details of the role, for anyone you might think suitable, to apply directly to the Diocese. Parish Bookkeeper (Job Ref: 854-SHEPP) – Diocese of Westminster Careers

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY THIS WEEK
is offered for the repose of the soul of
Louise Heath RIP

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
Tom Bonikowski 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