THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 26 April	**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish For an increase in vocations to the priesthood For George Trussler RIP
Mon 27 April	Easter Feria	No Mass today	
Tue 28 April	Easter Feria	Mass at 9.30am **Knit & Natter - hall 1-3pm** **FHC class - hall 5pm**	Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish
Wed 29 April	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, Virgin & Doctor of the Church.	Mass at 9.30am **Holy Rosary follows Mass**	In thanksgiving for Joanna, Grace and Jacob
Thurs 30 April	Easter Feria	Mass at 9.30am **Coffee Connections 10 - 12.00** **Confirmation Class- hall 7pm**	For James Raleigh with prayers for his surgery
Fri 01 May	St Joseph the Worker	Mass at 9.30am **Adoration follows Mass**	In thanksgiving for prayer answered
Sat 02 May	St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor	Mass at 10.00am Holy Baptism 12.00noon	Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish
Sun ✠ 03 May	**5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Maureen & Rino Bernardinis RIP Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish For an increase in vocations to the priesthood

HOLY ROSARY PRAYERS: Wednesday morning following the 9.30am Mass.
ADORATION 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.

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
Weekdays
Easter wk 4
Divine Office:
Easter wk 4

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2026
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



This Sunday is often called *Good Shepherd* Sunday and invites us to picture Jesus as the Shepherd who truly knows his flock. Jesus is not a distant observer with a clipboard, but a shepherd who knows us by name, (quirks included), and still loves us. He is closely involved in our lives, even on the days, when we feel more like lost sheep than model disciples!

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, doesn't promise an easy stroll through flowery meadows. He offers protection from voices that would lead us astray and gently, but firmly guides us towards the gates of heaven.

The catch? We have to listen to him and follow the Shepherd even when the path includes bumps, brambles, or occasional detours we didn't expect.

This Sunday is also know as *Vocations Sunday*, when we pray especially for those whom the Good Shepherd may be calling to serve as priests and religious. The Church depends on men who are willing to say "yes" to leading, caring for, and sometimes chasing after the flock, just as Christ does.

Do we recognise the Shepherd's voice amongst all the other noise? Do we trust his guidance, even when we're unsure where it leads? And are we open - really open, to following where he calls us, whether that's deeper faith, greater service, or perhaps even a vocation to the holy priesthood? The Good Shepherd is speaking. The question is: are we listening?

Happy Eastertide - Happy Sunday. Fr Shaun

WELCOME - IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US THIS EASTERTIDE! If you are new, visiting this weekend or have returned after some time away, you are very welcome - it is good to have you with us. And just so that you know, the Masses are livestreamed on line via YouTube for those who are at sick and unable to get to Mass.

THANK YOU to Traci Blundell who ends her time as our Church Bookkeeper on Monday. We shall miss her attention to detail in support of SJF and the mission of the Church. We wish her well in her early retirement as she prepares to move on to bigger and better things. Thank you Traci!
For the time being any enquiries regarding Planned Giving, Gift-Aid etc… can be forwarded to the church office.

COFFEE CONNECTIONS: this coming Thursday and every last Thursday of the month between 10.00am-12noon in the church hall. Everyone welcome for some proper fresh coffee (or tea) and a chat. Just pop along, we would love to see you.

THANK YOU to all who attended the final reflection session last Friday for *Love in Action*. Over Lent and into Easter we had been exploring some of the themes of Catholic Social Teaching and how we might, as a community proclaim the Good News in fresh and practical ways. We will be discerning over the coming weeks how we might build on Love in Action as an opportunity to deepen our faith. Thank you to all who have been involved over the past weeks.

KNIT & NATTER is going very well and continues to meet on Tuesdays in the church hall from 1.00 -3.00pm. It's open to all - just come along!

DATES FOR THE DIARY FOR MAY:
Saturday 9th May at 11.00am
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS
Wednesday 13th May at 7.00pm
HOLY CONFIRMATION MASS — Principal Celebrant: Bishop James Curry
Thursday 14th May:
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Masses at 9.30am & 7.00pm
Sunday 24th May
PENTECOST SUNDAY
usual weekend Mass times
Sunday 31st May
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY— usual weekend Masses

VOCATIONS SUNDAY AND THE PRIEST TRAINING FUND THIS WEEKEND This weekend we will listen to a Pastoral Letter from our new Archbishop, Richard Moth. He will invite us to listen again to the voice of the Good Shepherd. That same voice continues to call today quietly, persistently, in the hearts of those in our parish community. Across our diocese, there are men discerning that call right now. Each vocation is a sign of hope, not just for the future, but for the life of the Church today.
But discernment doesn't happen in isolation. Formation takes years of study, spiritual direction, and pastoral experience and it requires the support of our entire faith community. It is a blessing that there are twenty seminarians in formation for the Priesthood and choosing to dedicate their lives to Christ and his people. Priests and deacons are called to live simple lives, but high quality training comes at a price. Supporting priestly formation is a shared investment in the Sacraments, in parish life, and in the presence of Christ among us. Every baptism, every confession, every Mass we receive is made possible through the ministry of a priest formed and supported by the faithful. This is why the Priest Training Fund matters so much. If you are able, please give generously to the second collection today. A bucket is available at the back of the church for envelopes and cash and a special *Priest Training Fund* tab is available on the card machine - Thank you.

THIS IS SERIOUSLY GOOD VIEWING... for those who are new to the Catholic Church, and for those thinking about becoming a Catholic. We highly recommend this to our young people preparing for Holy Confirmation and to all our Catechists from Little Church through to RCIA (and our Catholic Teachers in school). It's a walk through the Catholic Mass with Fr. Mike Schmitz and in just under 40 mins, you'll learn about every part of the Mass and what it means. You can watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS8NrJ0Y5O8

EASTER HOLY WATER This was blessed during the Easter Vigil and is available from the Holy Water dispenser which is close to the font. Please ensure that you close off the tap after use. If you are unsure - please ask, we are happy to help.

GIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD: during the past months, many people have been struggling to make ends meet. Thank you if you are able to bring some non perishable food for our Food Bank Box. This is a good deed done. Your kind donations, which can be placed in the food collection box at the church entrance, are going directly to help others locally via the Jubilee Food Bank. Many, many thanks.

SHEPPERTON FAIR - We have very generously been given a stall at the Shepperton Fair on the 13th June by the Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club. We are planning to run a tombola and are looking for donations for the stall. If you would like to donate a prize which could be a bottle, some sweets or chocolate or any other little prizes you have around the house, please can they be left in the porch in the box marked Lourdes. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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

YOUR KIND DONATIONS support absolutely everything we do, so whatever way you support the good works here at SJF we are thankful. The loose collection last weekend was £268.38 The loose collection for last weekend (excluding online/card donations) was £279.81. As always - thank you. You are brilliant!

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN Pilgrimage to Lourdes 17th – 24th July 2026. Registration is open at **https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk/registration-form/** or via the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173. If you would like to sponsor or fundraise for an Assisted Pilgrim, member of the medical team or volunteer then please also contact the Pilgrimage Office for further details.

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 Wednesday mornings**.**

HOLY COMMUNION can be received by Catholics at Mass, either on the tongue or in the hand and you may kneel or stand to receive. If you are receiving in the hand, please make your hands a safe place to receive the Body of Christ. One hand firmly under the other, to make a throne and hands raised up, near to the priest, will avoid the risk of dropping the Host. When receiving Holy Communion, we are not receiving a symbol of Jesus but the Body of Christ in Sacramental form. This is why receiving Holy Communion is both a beautiful and holy moment with the Lord himself. If you are not a Catholic, or you are a Catholic who does not receive Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come forward for a blessing instead - just place your hands across your chest.

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. (Wed & Thurs mornings). The diocesan recommendation for your offering is £10 or whatever you can afford. If you are making a hand written request, please add your contact details so we can advise you 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.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY THIS WEEK
is offered in thanksgiving by Shirley Ayers for all her blessings. Thanks be to God.

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

ANNIVERSARIES THIS APRIL
Margaret Ward, Maurice Ward, Leila Waterhouse, Edward Reilly, Christopher Romer, Winifred Smith, Maureen Keady, William Walsh, Ted Jones, Anna Semkowicz-Holt, Cecilia Grose, Fr Anton Cowan, Catherine Monica Clarkin, Jeffrey Cowen.
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord