THE WEEK AHEAD AT SJF

Sun ✠ 17 May	**7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	For Christopher Brindle RIP - recently departed Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish For Patrick O' Leary RIP
Mon 18 May	Easter Feria	No Mass today	
Tue 19 May	Easter Feria	Mass at 9.30am **Knit & Natter - hall 1-3pm**	For Francis Paul RIP, in thanksgiving (Birthday)
Wed 20 May	Easter Feria	Mass at 9.30am **Holy Rosary follows Mass**	For Ben Hrekow RIP
Thurs 21 May	Easter Feria	Mass at 9.30am	For Joel Nulsen for continued good health
Fri 22 May	Easter Feria	Mass at 9.30am **Adoration follows Mass**	For Christopher Brindle RIP - recently departed
Sat 23 May	Easter Feria	Mass at 10.00am	*This beautiful Holy Mass is available for your intentions - just contact the office*
Sun ✠ 24 May	**PENTECOST SUNDAY**	**5.00pm Sat Vigil** **8.30am Mass** **10.30am Mass**	Pro Populo - for the people of the Parish For Jeanne Diekmann RIP For Fred Gwyther RIP (Birthday)

PLEASE switch off your phone and switch on to the RISEN LORD and see the possibilities He has in mind for you!

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.
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)

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: Flora Mascarenhas (Mondays): 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:

ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2026
7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



This Sunday finds us in that slightly awkward liturgical period between Ascension and Pentecost. It's the original "What do we do next?" moment.

The apostles had just watched Jesus ascend into heaven. Naturally, they stood there gazing - it's a deeply human reaction. When something amazing happens, we pause, we stare, we try to take it all in.

This Sunday reminds us of another kind of waiting. This is a holy time of waiting in prayer. The disciples, caught between promise and fulfilment, are told to wait for the Holy Spirit, not quite knowing what that means, but trusting anyway.

Many of us recognise that feeling. We sometimes live in the "in-between": waiting for clarity, for answers, for life to feel just a little more settled. The comforting truth is that the disciples didn't have everything worked out either. There was no committee meeting, no detailed plan, not even a rota! They simply stayed together and prayed.

So, perhaps the invitation this week to each of us, is to take time to pause, to pray, to breathe, and to remember that God is at work, even when we feel we are simply waiting. Just remember that Pentecost is coming, the Holy Spirit is on the way! Happy Sunday! *Fr Shaun*

✠ ALLELUIA - HE IS ASCENDED ✠

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 sick and unable to get to Mass.

LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING was a truly joyful and grace-filled celebration as 21 young people from SJF, St Theodore's, and Sacred Heart parishes received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We give heartfelt thanks to God for each of them and for the gifts of the Holy Spirit poured into their lives.
A sincere word of thanks to everyone who helped prepare for the liturgy, our catechists, families, musicians and singers, altar servers, flower arrangers, sacristans and all who worked so generously behind the scenes. Your dedication made the celebration prayerful and uplifting.
We are also grateful to those who organised the beautiful gathering in the hall afterwards, creating a warm and welcoming space to continue the celebration together. May God bless you all for your kindness, generosity, and faith. *Fr Shaun*

MARY'S MEALS will be with us this weekend. Mary's Meals feeds young children one good meal every day in their place of education. By giving Mary's Meals your foreign coins and notes you can help feed the next hungry child. They will also take UK coins/notes that are no longer legal tender. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. Mary's Meals will also have a special announcement to make at the end of the Mass.

THANK YOU if you attended the Holy Mass on Thursday to celebrate the Ascension of the Lord into heaven — an important Holy Day in the life of the Church.

NEXT WEEKEND The Church will celebrate Pentecost, fifty days after the Resurrection of the Lord. Pentecost marks the birthday of the Church. The clergy wear red vestments to represent the coming of the Holy Spirit onto the people of the Church. Why not wear something red yourself and join in the celebrations? Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love! We will also be distributing Confirmation certificates at the 10.30am Mass to our newly confirmed young people.

DON'T MISS OUT - **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

MOVING INTO EXAMINATION TIME: We pray for our young people preparing to sit their examinations at this time. If you are finding it all a bit stressful - utilise your faith! Say a prayer, asking for the intercessions of Blessed Mary, Seat of all Wisdom - who unties knots!

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!

LITTLE CHURCH IS AT THE 10.30AM MASS. There are also Children's Mass sheets, Mass cards and Missals, especially for our children. Parents, please assist your little ones in learning the words of the Holy Mass. This will help them to grow in confidence and in faith and is great preparation for receiving the Sacraments of the church.

NEW TO ST JOHN FISHER OR NEED TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS? Please fill in a Parish Registration Form which you can find at the back of the church and online. Please feel free to drop it in to Mandy, our Parish Administrator in the office, if you are passing by. Many thanks

HOLY BAPTISM is a joyous Sacrament beginning the great adventure of faith for our youngsters. 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 DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, LONDON is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Saturday 6th June from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Recollection Day will include Holy Mass, Talk, Hour of Mercy with Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Slough, Ealing Broadway, North London, Barking and Victoria.

A MASS FOR YOUR INTENTIONS is a beautiful and deeply meaningful spiritual gift. At the heart of the Mass, we bring our prayers to the Lord, whether for a loved one living or deceased, in thanksgiving, or for a special need, and we unite them with Jesus' perfect offering to the Father. Requesting a Mass intention is a powerful way to place what matters most to us into God's loving care. It is also a wonderfully practical way of supporting the mission and ministry of the Church, enabling Priests to continue their pastoral work and the Gospel to be proclaimed. The Mass offering recommended by the Diocese is £10, or whatever you can afford. Every intention is welcomed with prayer and gratitude, just contact Mandy in the office for available dates. Thank you

HOLY COMMUNION may be received by Catholics at Mass, either on the tongue or in the hand. 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 invited to come forward for a blessing instead - just place your hands across your chest.

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.

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**.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS OF 2026… if you would like to become an altar server at the Mass you attend, please speak to Fr Shaun.

YOUR KIND OFFERINGS support absolutely everything we do, so whatever way you support the good works here at SJF with your donations, we are very grateful. The loose collection last weekend was £321.65 The loose collection for the previous week (excluding online/card donations) was £342.64 As always you are marvellous!

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD:
God our Father, you give us the Sacraments as signs and instruments of your love and mercy. Draw from amongst your disciples men who are willing to serve your Church generously as priests in the Diocese of Westminster, to minister to your people and to proclaim the Gospel to all. Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen them, to be their companion on the journey, as they discern your will for their lives. This prayer we make, through Christ our Lord. Amen
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Pray for us
St John Southworth - Pray for us

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
BURNING IN THE SANCTUARY THIS WEEK

is for our children who recently received their First Holy Communion so beautifully, and also for our brilliant young people who received the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation last week.

DEO GRATIAS - THANKS BE TO GOD

PRAYING FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED
ANNIVERSARIES THIS MAY

Fr John O'Sullivan, Ella Mary Butterworth,
Elsie Curley, Peter Johnson, Alice (Nita) Manning,
Mollie Pugh, Jeanne Diekmann, Joe D'Souza,
Tom Ray, David Weathers, Bartley Keady
Dorothy Price, Linzi Geddes, Joan King,
Daphne Dodd, Kitty Brett, Terry Quinn,
Kathleen Johnson,
Clive Duveen, Maria Montante, David Joslyn.
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord