

Fisherman's Herald

First Sunday of Advent (B) - 3rd December 2023

St John Fisher Church

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www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk

Part of the R. C. Archdiocese of Southwark Charity No: 1173050

Fr Francis Nonyelu, Fr Joseph Edem, Deacon Tom Kavanagh

Parish Office: **Monday & Thursday 9am to 2pm.**



MASS INTENTIONS & PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday 2nd	5:00-5:50pm 6:00pm	Confessions (<i>Confessional</i>) Angela Nassif
Sunday 3rd <i>First Sunday of Advent (B)</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Migrants</i>	8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:30pm	People of the Parish Canon Acton RIP (1st Anniversary) Canon Acton RIP Francis Gracias RIP (1st Anniversary) Irene McGrenra Welfare
Monday 4th	8:30am 9:00am	<i>Rosary</i> Richard Debono RIP Michael James Walsh RIP (5th Anniversary)
Tuesday 5th	8:30am 9:00am	<i>Rosary</i> Mary Moriarty RIP (2nd Anniversary) June Daly RIP
Wednesday 6th	8:30am 9:00am 9:30am	<i>Rosary</i> Marie Lourdes Chedenbrun Sid Miles RIP <i>Legion of Mary (Day Chapel)</i>
Thursday 7th <i>St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	8:30am 9:00am 9:30-10:30am	<i>Rosary</i> Eric Agboegbulem Kate Colthup - Wellbeing <i>Weekly Adoration</i>
Friday 8th <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	8:30am 9:00am 7:00pm	<i>Rosary</i> Annette & Bill Gillott RIP Sister Catherine RIP (4th Anniversary)
Saturday 9th	9:00am 9:30-10:30am	Eamonn Coughlan RIP Confessions (<i>Confessional</i>)
Saturday 9th	5:00-5:50pm 6:00pm	Confessions (<i>Confessional</i>) Lynn Smith
Sunday 10th <i>Second Sunday of Advent (B)</i>	8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:30pm	Angela Acton RIP Romeo Francis RIP Fritha Winton People of the Parish

Advent Season:

Today we begin the Holy Season of Advent, the start of a New Liturgical Year. The Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all of us who follow Christ, the Lord. We are encouraged to use this time as a prayerful preparation for the birth of Christ in our hearts. This Season is an opportunity to make Christmas 2023 a worthy celebration of the Lord's birth, as we welcome him anew into our hearts.

Advent Course: "Let it be done unto me according to your word: How Mary helps us to be filled with God"

This course consisting of videos and discussion will be held on the Mondays of Advent beginning at 7.30pm on 4th December in the Church Hall.

First Anniversary Mass of Canon Colm Acton RIP:

The parish and Canon Acton's family are observing the first anniversary of the death of Canon Acton today at 11am Mass.

Parish Business:

Monday 4th December from 7pm to 8pm.

St Vincent de Paul Annual Collection - Today:

The St Vincent de Paul Society is dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to anyone in need. Anyone who is really struggling for assistance should speak to a member of the clergy in confidence.

Christian Care Christmas Collection - Today:

This weekend we are collecting for hampers for needy families. Items required: Sparkling non-alcoholic drink/fruit juice, Large or mini Christmas Pudding, Chocolate/Sticky toffee Puddings, Mince Pies, Chocolate Log, Stollen, Tin / Box Chocolate or Fancy Biscuits, Tin / Box Shortbread, Tin Fruit, Tin Custard, Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing, Gravy, Box Chocolates, Children's sweets. *Please bring items to the hall after Mass.*

Funerals:

Please remember the families in your prayers.

Sharon Peck RIP:

Requiem Mass - Monday 11th Dec at 12:30pm.

John Daly RIP:

Requiem Mass - Friday 15th Dec at 12:30pm.

4th Anniversary Mass Sister Catherine RIP:

Friday 8th December @ 7pm. Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Do come and join us.

Repository:

Parish Shop is now open before and after 9.30am Mass every Sunday & accepts all credit cards and cash.

SJF Justice & Peace Group:

There will be a sale of Palestinian goods in the hall after all Masses on 9/10th December to raise funds for charities in the Holy Land.

Church Parade - Next Weekend:

The 5th Morden Scout Group are holding a raffle during their cake sale after church parade on 10th December. There are some amazing prizes. They are raising money towards two international trips they are participating in next year, one to Belgium and one to Kandersteg, the International Scout Centre in Switzerland. Raffle tickets can be bought from one of the leaders after masses 2nd /3rd December. Please come and support us on the 10th December at the cake sale and watch the raffle draw at 11am.

Christmas Cards for persecuted Christians:

The Justice and Peace Group are inviting parishioners to send a Christmas Card to someone in prison or persecuted for their faith. We provide the cards, address and some information. All you need is the greeting and a stamp. Please do not make any political comment in your card. We suggest you express sympathy for their situation and promise prayers.

Church Attendance Slips:

All Children will require a school reference when applying to Catholic High Schools. Slips are available at the back of Church for Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 during term time. The parish will use these slips to keep a record of (Saturday Evening or (Sunday) Mass attendance when signing reference forms. Please, DO NOT FILL IN THESE SLIPS for any child who is not present, or if your child is not attending Holy Mass on a Saturday Evening or Sunday.

Safeguarding:


The Archdiocese of Southwark is committed to the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults. The Diocese co-operates fully with CSAS, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service, which aims to help the Church become an example of best practice in the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and develop a "culture of vigilance" to ensure that children and vulnerable adults in our care are kept safe from harm. The parish safeguarding representative for St John Fisher Parish is Mrs Ursula O'Byrne and she can be contacted on 07943800663. If you have any concerns please contact her immediately.

NEW Post - Confirmation Programme

Our parish Alpha Youth course begins on Sunday 3rd Dec and continues on Sun 10th and Sun 17th Dec in the parish hall from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Ten further sessions will take place in the Spring 2024 term. The programme is free and aims to create a vibrant, active section of the parish in which the children feel part of and can contribute to. More information on the course content can be found on the Alpha website at www.alpha.org.uk Please download a registration form from our website and return to the parish office if your child would like to attend ASAP: www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk/alpha-youth-course-reply

Weekly Offertory Donations:

Thank you dear parishioners for contributing generously towards the running costs of the Parish. In case anyone wishes to make donations in this regard, please use any of the following 4 ways:

1. Please email merton@rcaos.org.uk for a pledge form
2. Continue using your weekly gift aid envelopes 
3. Donate on our website or scan the QR code
4. Donate to our parish justgiving page:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-john-fisher-merton

Time & Talents - Volunteers Appeal:

Your parish of St John Fisher, Merton needs **YOU** and your talents and time! Please pick up a form as you leave Church if you are able to help.

Father Matthias Kizito:

Fr Matthias' farewell mass is on Saturday 13th January at 6pm followed by a party in the parish hall. If you wish to contribute to the parish gift, envelopes are available at the back of Church or you can donate at <https://donate.mydona.com/st-john-fisher-rc-church>

Carols Preceding the Vigil Mass

Singing Christmas carols precedes the 6pm Vigil Mass on 24th December at St John Fisher Church from 5.30pm.

Children who attend primary schools (other than St John Fisher) are invited to take part in acting out the Christmas story and singing carols. Your child can choose to be an angel or a shepherd. The rehearsals will take place at 4pm -5pm on the following dates at the church. Angels: 6th Dec, Shepherds: 13th Dec, Angels and shepherds: 20th Dec. There will be an opportunity for children in years 5 and 6 to read a few lines in addition to the carols. If your child is interested please email me at the following address with your child's preference: cbrierly@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk.

CAFOD - World Gifts Catalogue:

Please take a catalogue from the back of Church or visit www.cafod.org.uk/adventseason that can help you to pray and raise funds for refugee families in desperate need.

INFANT BAPTISMS: First Sunday of the month at 3pm. The Church requests that children are brought to be baptised as soon as practicable after birth and before they are six months old. Please complete a baptism request form and return to the presbytery. Deacon Tom will then contact you to discuss the baptism:

<http://www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk/baptism-request-form.pdf>

Marriages: About getting married, wherever and whenever, please contact a priest as soon as possible. We need at least 6 months notice.

Hospital:

If you are going into hospital as a patient, and wish to see a chaplain, you will need to ask the hospital staff or a member of your family to arrange for the chaplain to visit you.

Father Philip Pak: ST HELIER'S CHAPLAIN'S number is: 07459 226 823 and 07591 596 656.

Father Peter Littleton: ST GEORGE'S CHAPLAIN'S number is: 020 8725 3069 email catholicchaplains@stgeorges.nhs.uk

Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound of our parish **Rita Aguiar, Kate Colthup, Ravi Aumeerun, Richard Skeehan, Ceris Cook, Charles & Anna Lusack, Grant Cozens, Malcolm Varran, Catherine Yeats, Luca Buttaci, Kitty McVey, Rita Platel, Edward Alvares, Christine Henderson, Johnny Symmonds, Patricia Anderson, Irene McGrenra, Anthony Carter, Richard Sullivan, Joseph McGahren, John Heffron, Jim Cosgrove and Natalie Williams.**



PLEASE COMPLETE A SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE SLIP

(SLIPS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH FOR THOSE IN SCHOOL YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6)