

# Fisherman's Herald

## Third Sunday of Advent (B) - 17th December 2023

St John Fisher Church

207 Cannon Hill Lane, Merton, London, SW20 9DB.  
 Tel: **020 8542 6355** Email: [merton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:merton@rcaos.org.uk)  
[www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk](http://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

<b>Saturday 16th</b>	5:00-5:50pm	Confessions ( <i>Confessional</i> )
	6:00pm	Helen & Tim Daly RIP
<b>Sunday 17th</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent (B)</i> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	8:00am	Stephanie McAllister RIP
	9:30am	Harry Gracias
	11:00am	Alfonso, Antonietta & Michael Proto RIP
	6:30pm	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 18th</b>	8:30am	<i>Rosary</i>
	9:00am	Catherine Agboegulem Kenneth Page RIP
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions ( <i>Confessional</i> )
<b>Tuesday 19th</b>	8:30am	<i>Rosary</i>
	9:00am	Leslie D'Sa RIP Anniversary Michael Sheriff RIP
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions ( <i>Confessional</i> )
<b>Wednesday 20th</b>	8:30am	<i>Rosary</i>
	9:00am	Angela Acton RIP Sadie Davis Intentions
	9:30am	<i>Legion of Mary (Day Chapel)</i>
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions ( <i>Hall</i> )
<b>Thursday 21st</b>	8:30am	<i>Rosary</i>
	9:00am	Connie & Francis Saldanha Sr Vianney RIP
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions ( <i>Confessional</i> )
	9:30-10:30am	<i>Weekly Adoration</i>
<b>Friday 22nd</b>	8:30am	<i>Rosary</i>
	9:00am	Paddy Coyne RIP Anniversary Romeo Francis RIP
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions ( <i>Confessional</i> )
<b>Saturday 23rd</b>	9:00am	Bill Mahabir RIP
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions ( <i>Confessional</i> )
<b>Saturday 23rd</b>	5:00-5:50pm	Confessions ( <i>Confessional</i> )
	6:00pm	Liam Mullen RIP
<b>Sunday 24th</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)</i>	8:00am	People of the Parish
	9:30am	Canon Acton RIP
	11:00am	Fr David Gummett
	5:30pm	<i>Carols</i>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	6:00pm	Pat Igoe RIP
	11:30pm	<i>Carols</i>
	Midnight	May Hession RIP

### Florists and Decorators:

The parish urgently need florists and decorators to beautify and adorn the Church by bringing life, help our common worship and inspire devotion. Please speak to any of the parish clergy.

### 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 continues at 7.30pm on 18th December in the Church Hall.

### Parish Business:

Monday 18th December from 7pm to 8pm.

### Post - Confirmation Alpha Youth Course:

Our Alpha Youth course continues on Sun 17th Dec in the parish hall from 5:30-7:30pm. Ten further sessions will take place in the Spring 2024 term. Please visit [www.alpha.org.uk](http://www.alpha.org.uk) for more information. 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-slip-2023.pdf](http://www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk/alpha-youth-course-reply-slip-2023.pdf)

### Talkabout - December 2023 Edition:

Copies of our parish magazine are available from the back of Church and can also be viewed on our website. Donations towards printing costs are appreciated, Suggested donation: £1.

### Sunday Tea/Coffee Group:

Many thanks to the 11am Mass club who have raised **£267** for the charity Sightsavers. For more information on the charity, please visit: [www.sightsavers.org](http://www.sightsavers.org)

### Christmas Confessions:

Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd Dec, 9:30am to 10:30am.

### Christmas Offerings:

Your personal gift to the Priests of the Parish, envelopes are at the back of the Church. You may know that Clergy do not receive a salary as such and rely upon the Christmas and Easter offerings to supplement any income received through Mass Stipends and Stole Fees for Baptisms, Funerals, and rare weddings.

### Funeral:

Please remember the family in your prayers.

### Peter Wright RIP:

Requiem Mass - Friday 5th Jan 2024 at 12:30pm.

### The 5th Morden Scout Group:

would like to thank all parishioners who supported their recent raffle and cake sales. We would also like to thank Father Francis for allowing us to sell the tickets and hold the events in the church hall. The money raised will be a great help to those going on our planned trips in 2024. We wish you all a very happy *Christmas and New Year.*

### My Day by Day Advent Books:

Available at the back of Church - Suggested donation £1

### 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.

### 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 for Angels and Shepherds will take place at 4pm-5pm on the 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](mailto:cbrierly@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk).

### Peace Service:

On Monday 1st January, World Day of Prayer for Peace, we will have a Peace Service in the Church at 4.00 pm. Please do join us in prayer for Peace in the World in 2024. There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

### Baptism Service:

All those families who have had a baby baptised during 2023 are invited to the church on Sunday 7th January 2024, at 4pm for a service. There will be refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

### 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.

### Used Stamps:



Jesuit Missions are very grateful for all donations of stamps which they use for their work. Please continue to collect your used stamps and put them in the box at the back of Church.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-john-fisher-merton)


### Simbang Gabi Novena Mass:

St Teresa's Catholic Church, Morden. Sat. 16th Dec. to 23rd Dec at 7:30pm. Refreshments after the Mass in the parish hall. All are welcome!

### 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>

### Caremark:

At Caremark Merton we deliver excellent home care with compassion and a cheery smile! Whatever you need, whatever time of day, for however long and however frequent, we are here to help. We provide personalised care that keeps you safe and happy at home. We also offer live-in care packages. Considering home care for yourself or a loved one? 

### Christmas Masses:

#### Sunday 24th December

#### Morning: 4th Sunday of Advent

Mass - 8am, 9:30am and 11am

Evening: Christmas Eve - 5:30pm Carols, 6pm Vigil Mass  
11:30pm Carols, Midnight Mass at 12am.

#### Christmas Day Masses (Monday)

Mass at 8am, 9:30am and 11am.

There will be NO 6:30pm EVENING MASS.

#### Feast of St Stephen - Tuesday 26th December:

Mass at 10am for all Altar Servers & for New Servers, who will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen.

#### Christmas Confessions:

Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd Dec from 9:30am to 10:30am.

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](mailto:catholicchaplains@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound of our parish **Ivan Fernandes, 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)