

Parish Notices

Christmas Greetings

"The Clergy of the parish, wish all parishioners and their families a Happy and peaceful Christmas. May the joy of Jesus' birth fill our hearts. And may the coming year bring us closer to God"

This Christmas, there will be a number of people coming to Mass. Each member of our parish has an important part in fostering a sense of joy and welcome. Share a smile and make an introduction. This Christmas, try to be one of the reasons that our visitors come back in the New Year. Merry Christmas!

An Expression of Gratitude

"On behalf of our parish community, I wish to express my gratitude to all parishioners and to all individuals and groups who have contributed so much to the Sacramental, Spiritual, Social, Liturgical, Financial and Administrative life of the parish this year. We thank all those who offer voluntary services: Catechist, Choirs, S.V.P, Collectors, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcoming Team, Church Cleaners, Gardeners, Decorators, Sacristans, Altar Servers and the Editorial Team of Talkabout Magazine. May the Lord continue to bless you as you dedicate your time and energy to serve God's kingdom here on earth" - Fr Francis

Advent meeting

Monday 22nd December from 7.30 to 8.45pm in the Church Hall. There will be a DVD presentation and time for discussion.

Thursday Adoration in Advent

9:30am to 3:00pm. We say together the Afternoon Prayer of the Church at 2:45pm, the Divine Mercy Prayer at 3:00pm, we conclude with Benediction.

Funerals

Please pray for the families:

Naomi Whetton RIP

Monday 22nd December at 11:20am

John McGuirk RIP

Friday 2nd January at 12:30pm

Jubilee Mass - Friday 26th December

The parish will be celebrating Jubilee Mass every Friday at 7:00pm. Confessions starts at 6:30pm.

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.

Christmas Confession

There will be Christmas Confession on Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th from 9:30am to 10:30am. Please check the parish Advent and Christmas leaflet available from the back of Church.

Feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday 28th December is the Feast of the Holy Family, there will be prayers at Mass for Family Life.

Church Cleaning - December

Tuesday 23rd December from 9:30am to 10:30am
New Volunteers welcome.

Hall Donations

Envelopes are available at the back of Church for donations towards the renovation of the parish hall. You can also donate using the contactless machine.

Archbishop John Wilson's 2025 Christmas message

In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said: "The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him". You can watch and read the full message at rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025.

Parish Business

Monday 22nd December from 7pm to 8pm.

Crib Offering - Catholic Children's Society:

Every penny you donate will go into the Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund to provide emergency support for families in our Archdiocese. Visit www.cathchild.org.uk for more information.

Peace Service - Thursday 1st January

World Day of Prayer for Peace, we will have a Peace Service in the Church at 4pm. Please do join us in prayer for Peace in the World in 2026. There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Baptism Service

All those families who have had a baby baptised during 2025 are invited to the church on Sunday 11th January 2026, at 3pm for a service. There will be refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

Help Needed in the Parish Shop

for about an hour before and after 6.00pm Mass on every 4th Sunday of the month. If you're unable to attend on your day you can arrange to swop with one of the other five helpers. Speak to a member of the clergy for further information.

Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound of our parish



Mark Lobo, Louise Hosking, Ethan Peruzzo, Stewart Davis, Bernie Simmons, Seeta Seenayah, Margaret Pumford, Douglas Desmier, Anastasia Coyle, Christina Duffy, Thomas Ivan Grostate, Richard Skeehan, John Myles, Charles Lusack, Grant Cozens, Malcolm Varran, Catherine Yeats, Rita Platel, Edward Alvares, Christine Henderson, Johnny Simmonds, Patricia Anderson, Irene McGrenra, Anthony Carter, Louis Gouveia, Joseph McGahren, John Heffron and Jim Cosgrove.

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:

St Helier's Chaplain's: **07459 226 823** and **07591 596 656**.
St Georges: **020 8725 3069**

**NO MASS ATTENDANCE SLIPS THIS WEEKEND
DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

Our Parish Primary School is

St. John Fisher R. C. Primary and Nursery School, Grand Drive, West Wimbledon, SW20 9NA, Tel: 020 8540 2637

Email: school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk Web: www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stjohnfisherprimary>

Boys & Girls Aged 3-11. Breakfast & After School Club. 30 hours Nursery provision. Head Teacher – Ms Janine Kenna





St John Fisher Merton

Fisherman's Herald

207 Cannon Hill Lane, Merton, London, SW20 9DB
Tel: 020 8542 6355 Email: merton@rcaos.org.uk
www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk



Parish Priest: Fr Francis Nonyelu,
Assistant Priest: Fr Alfred Mamman,
Deacon: Rev Tom Kavanagh
Parish Office: Monday & Thursday from 9am to 2pm.

Parish Primary School
St. John Fisher R. C. Primary and Nursery School,
Grand Drive, SW20 9NA, Tel: 020 8540 2637
Headteacher: Ms J Kenna

21st December 2025 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions For This Week

Saturday 20th	5:30-5:50pm	Confessions
	6:00pm	Langan Family (Intentions)
Sunday 21st Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)	8:00am	Leslie D'Sa RIP Anniversary
	9:30am	Helen & Tim Daly RIP
	11:00am	People of The Parish
<i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	6:30pm	Kenneth & Cynthia Crowe RIP
Monday 22nd	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Paddy Coyne RIP (Anniversary) Rosaleen Mullan (Intentions)
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions
Tuesday 23rd	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Romeo Francis RIP Rosaleen Doherty RIP
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions
Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Eileen & Michael Tully
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions
	5:30pm	<i>Carols</i>
	6:00pm	Pat Igoe RIP
<i>Vigil Mass</i>	11:30pm	<i>Carols</i>
	Midnight	Evelyn Chiejina & Family
Thursday 25th The Nativity of The Lord	8:00am	Ilma Tong RIP
	9:30am	Canon Acton RIP
	11:00am	Irene Steel RIP
Friday 26th <i>St Stephen, Deacon, the First Martyr</i>	9:30am	Rosary
	10:00am	Irene Steel RIP Altar Servers
Saturday 27th <i>St John, Apostle & Evangelist</i>	9:30-10:30am	Confessions
	9:00am	Pat & Kitty McVey RIP
Saturday 27th	5:30-5:50pm	Confessions
	6:00pm	Eric Larche RIP
Sunday 28th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (A)	8:00am	Canon Acton RIP
	9:30am	People of The Parish
	11:00am	Leslie D'Sa RIP
	6:30pm	Leonard & Cecilia Richardson RIP

Reflection

This Sunday is sometimes referred to as Mary's, or Our Lady's, Sunday as the Gospel readings in the Church's three yearly cycle concentrate on Jesus' conception and birth.

Interestingly though this year, Matthew's account of Jesus' birth focuses not on Mary, but on Joseph, a quiet figure whose faithfulness shapes the entire story. The account reveals a man caught in a deeply painful situation—his fiancée is pregnant, and he knows he is not the father. Yet Joseph's response is marked not by anger or humiliation, but by mercy. He resolves to end the engagement quietly. Before Joseph ever hears from an angel, he is already acting with compassion. Then God interrupts. The angel tells Joseph not to be afraid, that the child is from the Holy Spirit, and that Joseph has a role to play: he is to name the child Jesus, embracing him fully as his own. Joseph wakes up and obeys without hesitation. No recorded questions. No bargaining. Just trust.

This passage offers a number of messages.

- Joseph never speaks a word in Scripture, yet his actions carry enormous weight. Sometimes the holiest thing we can do is simply take the next faithful step, even when we don't understand the whole picture.
- "Do not be afraid" is the angel's first instruction. Joseph's fear was understandable. God doesn't dismiss that fear; He responds to it. Faith doesn't erase fear, but it gives us courage to move through it.
- A pregnancy that looked like scandal becomes the doorway to salvation. God's work frequently arrives in forms that disrupt our expectations.
- By naming Jesus, Joseph legally adopts him. Joseph's "yes" draws him into God's saving work. Our obedience, too, often pulls us into a story larger than we imagined.

Joseph's faith is quiet but courageous. He teaches us that holiness is not loud, dramatic, or self promoting. It is found in listening, trusting, and acting with compassion even when life takes a bewildering turn. The reading invites us to ask: Where might God be calling me to trust more deeply, even when the path is unclear?

Quote of The Week

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins".
(Matthew 1:21)



Parishioners can use their smart phones to scan this QR code to make donations to any of our weekly collections.



These donations can be gift-aided

just follow the instructions on the screen or visit:

<https://donate.mydona.com/st-john-fisher-rc-church>



"Spes non Confundit"

Hope does not disappoint (Rom 5:5)