

The Second Sunday of Advent (A) 7th December 2025

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who
set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his com-
pany. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,
for ever and ever. Let us pray.

Amen.

First Reading

‘With righteousness he shall judge the poor.’ Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch
from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon
him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and
might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight
shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall
judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he
shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his
lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with
the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their
young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The
nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child
shall put his hand on the adder’s den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all
my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the
LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall
stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and
his resting-place shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. cf. 7

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king’s son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement. (R)

In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth. (R)

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy. (R)

May his name endure for ever,
his name continue like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blest in him,
all nations shall call him blessed.

Second Reading

Christ saves humanity. Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was
written for our instruction, that through endurance and through
the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May
the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in
such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that
together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has
welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to
show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to
the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for
his mercy. As it is written, ‘Therefore I will praise you among the
Gentiles, and sing to your name.’

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;

all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of
Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ For this is
he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, ‘The
voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the
Lord; make his paths straight.” ’ Now John wore a garment of
camel’s hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was
locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the
region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were
baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But
when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his
baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you
to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repent-
ance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abra-
ham as our father”, for I tell you, God is able from these stones to
raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root
of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is
cut down and thrown into the fire. ‘I baptise you with water for
repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I,
whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with
the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he
will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



St John Fisher Merton

Fisherman's Herald

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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

7th December 2025 The Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions For This Week

Saturday 6th	5:30-5:50pm	Confessions
	6:00pm	Eileen & Michael (Intentions)
Sunday 7th Second Sunday of Advent (A)	8:00am	Marie Lourdes Chedembrun
	9:30am	Eric Agboegbulem
	11:00am	Canon Acton RIP
	6:30pm	People of The Parish
Monday 8th <i>Immaculate Conception of the BVM</i>	8:00am	Rosary
	9:00am	Sister Catherine RIP
	8:00pm	Thanksgiving
Tuesday 9th	8:00am	Rosary
	9:00am	Sean Coyle (Wellbeing) Ronald Grostate (Thanksgiving)
Wednesday 10th	8:00am	Rosary
	9:00am	Loreto Loftus RIP Eugene Miller RIP
Thursday 11th	8:00am	Rosary
	9:00am	Billy Fitzgerald RIP Anniversary Jimmy Walsh RIP
	9:30am - 3pm	<i>Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament</i>
Friday 12th	8:00am	Rosary
	9:00am	Anthony Betts RIP Anniversary Euphrasia Paul
	7:00pm	<i>Mayor of Merton Carol Service</i>
Saturday 13th <i>St Lucy</i>	9:30-10:30am	Confessions
	9:00am	Maureen O'Donnell & Angela McGinley RIP
	11:30am	<i>Senior Citizens Mass</i>
Saturday 13th	5:30-5:50pm	Confessions
	6:00pm	Pat & Kitty Tobin (50th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday 14th Third Sunday of Advent (A)	8:00am	People of The Parish
	9:30am	Charles Vaz RIP (19th Anniversary)
	11:00am	Alfonso, Antionetta & Michael Proto RIP
<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	6:30pm	Dr Lawrence John Lobo & Sophia Lobo & Children

Reflection

The second week of Advent turns us from simply waiting to truly preparing. This Sunday's readings remind us that God's arrival is never passive, we have a part to play.

Isaiah gives us a powerful image: a tender shoot growing from the stump of Jesse. Life springing from what looked finished. That is how God often works: quietly renewing what we thought could no longer bear fruit.

John the Baptist appears in the wilderness with a voice that cuts through every illusion: "Prepare the way of the Lord." His message is direct because something important is at stake. Preparing for Christ is not about decorating our surroundings or ticking religious boxes. It is about clearing the inner obstacles we've grown used to like attitudes that harden us, habits that drain us, fears that shrink our faith, or burdens we refuse to set down.

John isn't asking for perfection, only honesty. When we make room, God does the real work. When we take one small step, Christ meets us with grace far greater than we expected.

So the question for this week is simple and unavoidable:

What needs to be softened, straightened, or surrendered in me so that Christ can find a clearer path?

Advent becomes real when preparation moves from our hands to our hearts and when we trust that God can bring new life from places we had written off.

May this week draw us a little closer to the One who comes to renew the world and restore us from within.

Quote of The Week



"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."
(Matthew 3:3)

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)

The Order of Mass

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

(And, striking their breast, they say)

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous
fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.
May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

The Liturgy of The Eucharist

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters)...

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands

For the praise and glory of his name, for our good and
the good of all his holy Church

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

The Priest, with hands extended, adds:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty
Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour
is yours, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Communion Rite

At the Saviour's command

and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her
peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and
reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
And together with the people he adds once:

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

The Concluding Rites

Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
Thanks be to God.

Parish Notices

Advent Season

We are already in the Holy season of Advent. 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 2025 a worthy celebration of the Lord's birth, as we welcome him anew into our hearts.

Advent meetings

Use Advent to refresh your faith by joining us at three sessions on the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist on Mondays 1st, 15th and 22nd December at 7.30 to 8.45pm in the Church Hall. There will be a DVD presentation and time for discussion.

Advent Books

Available at the back of Church, cost £1.50

Thursday Adoration in Advent

The parish Thursday Adoration is extended in the Advent season from 9:30am to 3:00pm. We say together the Afternoon Prayer of the Church at 2:45pm, the Divine Mercy Prayer at 3:00pm and we conclude with the Benediction. Please choose your adoration time and fill in the adoration form time slot at the back of the Church.

Spirituality Commission Advent Reflection:

Archdiocese of Southwark Spirituality Commission is sending a daily email reflection and we trust that you will find this a helpful aid to your Advent prayer. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/SSCAdvent2025> to subscribe

Funeral: Naomi Whetton RIP

Monday 22nd December at 11:20am

Please pray for the family.

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 before Mass.

Jubilee Mass - Friday 19th December

The parish will be celebrating Jubilee Mass every Friday at 7:00pm. Confessions starts at 6:30pm. Please note there will be NO Jubilee Mass on Friday 12th December.

Catholic Youth Services

Thank you to all those who contributed to the second collection for the Southwark Catholic Youth Services collection on the 23rd November, we raised: £449.92

Christmas Decorations/Flower Collection

Next weekend there will be a second collection for our church flowers and Christmas decorations. This annual collection allows our church decorating team to purchase beautiful flowers for the entire year.

Tea/Coffee - 8am Mass Today

There will be tea and coffee, toast and croissants served in the hall after the 8am Mass today.

Parish Business

No parish business this week

St Joseph Support Group

The parish organises an opportunity for those who are bereaved. Please call this number 07712443964 if you would like to attend. The next gathering will be on Weds 17th Dec from 1:30pm-3pm in the parish hall.

Called to Bear Fruit Consultation Report

Copies of the consultation report are available from the back of Church and can also be viewed online at: https://rcaos.org.uk/media/oyzhvzb5/ctbf-consultation-report-oct-25_compressed.pdf

CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue

Catalogues are available from the back of Church.

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.

Over 60's Group

The last meeting for the over 60's group this year will be on Thursday 11th December. The group returns on Thursday 15th Jan 2026.

Volunteers to help in the Repository - Parish Shop

for an hour or so 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 swap with one of the other five helpers. Speak to a member of the clergy for further information.

Church Cleaning - December

Weds 10th December and Tuesday 23rd December from 9:30am to 10:30am. New volunteers welcome.

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

John McGuirk, Louise Hosking, Catharine Wilmott, 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**

PLEASE COMPLETE A SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE SLIP
(SLIPS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH FOR
THOSE IN SCHOOL YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6)

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

