

Talkabout

MARCH 2026

St. John Fisher Parish Magazine



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Deadline for articles to be included in the next edition of *Talkabout* must be with the Editorial Team before

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

merton@rcaos.org.uk

Full colour PDF of *Talkabout* is available on the parish website - www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk



Suggested donation:
£2.00

WELCOME — FROM SILENCE TO SONG

It is that sacred season again when the silence of Lent gives way. After weeks of prayer, sacrifice, and quiet searching, the Church finds her voice again, strong, joyful, and unrestrained, and whispers of our hearts rise into a resounding Alleluia.

We have walked together through a season that asked much of us, to pause, to reflect, to return. In the quiet spaces of our hearts, God has been at work, often gently, sometimes deeply, always faithfully. Now, as we celebrate the Resurrection, we are reminded that nothing offered to God is ever lost. Every prayer, every act of charity, every hidden struggle is gathered into the victory of Christ.

Easter reminds us that darkness never has the final word. Life conquers death, mercy triumphs over sin, and joy breaks through even the deepest silence. This is not just a story we recall, it is a truth we are invited to live. It is not only a celebration but also a renewal. It calls us to live differently, to carry the light we have received into our homes, our parish, and the wider world. The empty tomb is not simply an event to remember, it is an invitation to hope again, to begin again, to believe again.

In a world often marked by uncertainty and weariness, Easter speaks a quiet but unshakable truth: light still shines, love still heals, and God is never absent. Even where

faith feels fragile, the Resurrection assures us that grace is already at work, restoring, renewing, and leading us forward.

As a parish family, we rejoice together. We lift our voices, not timidly, but with confidence and gratitude. Christ is risen, and in Him, we too are made new.

This edition of our parish magazine is born out of that moment. Within these pages, you will find the life of our parish reflected, our celebrations, our stories, and our shared journey of faith. They are small signs, yet powerful ones, that the risen Lord is alive and at work among us.

As you read, may your heart be lifted. May this season fill you with renewed joy and quiet strength. And may the Alleluia we proclaim in church echo in the way we live each day.

Christ is risen.

He is truly risen. Alleluia.

Fr Alfred Mamman
St John Fisher RC Church, Merton

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR

All those recently Baptised



Brady Coyne-Richards

Alaia Powell

Orla Worrall

TIM WRIGHT R.I.P.



Tim was a devoted family man. He met his wife Annette in 1971, actually at St John Fisher Church, and they were married for over 50 years. He had 3 daughters of whom he was very proud and encouraged them academically and in their chosen careers. He delighted in his seven grandchildren and enjoyed playing games with them.

Tim was also a devout Catholic who worshipped at

All those recently called home to Heaven

Eileen Mc Cormack

John Mc Guirk

Timothy Wright

Marlene Kirton

Christine Duffy

Catherine Cullen

Anthony Bygrave

Clara D'Sa

Gregory Liaw



*Grant them eternal rest,
Lord, and let perpetual
light shine on them.*

St John Fisher for most of his life. For many years he took his mother and brother Peter to Mass on a Sunday. He was an active member of the SVP for many years assisting Sean Deane in running the SVP for the benefit of people facing hardship in the Parish.

Tim showed great courage when he was diagnosed with a very rare disease in 2019. However his strong faith sustained him in his battle and he continued to enjoy life as best he could.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to all who made the Funeral Mass such a wonderful service and to all the parishioners who attended the Mass, sent beautiful cards and messages of support.

Tim was a vibrant and joyful man who will be sorely missed by all those who knew him.

May he rest peacefully in God's love

CHRISTOPHER HOCKLEY R.I.P



The editorial team were very sad to hear of the passing of Christopher “Chris” Hockley on New Year’s Eve 2025. He was a man that was well known to many in this parish. He and his wife, Maureen, were active members of the PTA at both St John Fisher and St Catherine schools in the 1980s. Christopher had built a lifelong career in publishing, and when the parish ‘Talkabout’ magazine was launched in the 1990s, he was only too happy to bring his experience to the team. He was the layout artist for many years, back in the days when the phrase “cut and paste” usually meant a sharp knife and some glue were needed, as opposed to two clicks on a mouse. Chris would also often be found helping out in other ways with various parish events. He often found himself being asked to help run the bar at social events.

Although Christopher and Maureen moved away from the parish several years ago, they continued to maintain close links with the parish and the area in general. Christopher was a frequent attendee at AFC Wimbledon matches, and would often meet with like-minded friends from the parish to share in the success and failures of the football club.

Christopher leaves behind his wife, Maureen, four daughters and several grandchildren.

Please remember Christopher and his family in your prayers.

In the Cycle of Prayer, the liturgical year has been divided into six periods; three of these being the principal liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas; Lent and Easter and the other three periods being divisions of Ordinary Time (namely Winter, Summer and Autumn).

Please pray for the intentions stated - not only on a particular day, not only at Mass, but throughout the period, especially in your own private prayers.

Lent

Candidates for the Sacraments
especially on the Sundays for Lent

The Needy and Hungry of the World
especially on Lent Fast Day (Friday after 1st Sunday of Lent)

Survivors of Sexual Abuse
especially on Friday of 5th Week of Lent

Penitents and Wanderers

Easter

New Members of the Church

Vocations
especially on the World Day of Prayer for vocations (4th Sunday of Easter)

Human Work
especially on St Joseph the Worker (1 May)

The Right Use of the Media
especially on World Communications Day (7th Sunday of Easter)

The Church
especially at Pentecost (Sunday 24th May)

Ordinary Time-Summer

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews

Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression, and Denial of Human Rights
especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas

Europe
especially of the feasts of St Benedict (11 July), St Bridget of Sweden (23 July), St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (9 August) who with St Cyril and St Methodius (14 February), and St Catherine of Siena (29 April) are Patrons of Europe)

Human Life
especially on Friday of 5th Week of Lent

Seafarers
especially on Sea Sunday (2nd Sunday in July)

ASK THE CLERGY: WHAT DOES THE PALM SIGNIFY?

HISTORICAL MEANING:

The palm has several symbolic meanings across cultures and religions. The exact meaning depends on the context. The Palm Symbolises victory and triumph. In ancient cultures such as Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece, palm branches symbolise victory, success, and achievement. Victorious athletes and military leaders were often given palm branches. It later became a symbol of peace and reconciliation, similar to the olive branch. And in the Middle East and North Africa, the palm often symbolises life, fertility, prosperity, and oasis survival, because it thrives in deserts.

BIBLICAL MEANING:

What does the Bible say about your palms? In the Book of Revelation, palm appears in a powerful heavenly scene: *“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude... standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands”* (cf. Revelation 7:9). It means that palms symbolise triumph – not earthly victory, but spiritual victory over sin, suffering, and death through Jesus, who is the Lamb. Again, the multitude cries, *“Salvation belongs to our God...”* (cf. Revelation 7:10). This means that the palms represent God’s saving power and the redeemed standing secure in His presence. Also, the palms were used in biblical festivals (like the Feast of Tabernacles) as signs of rejoicing. Here, they show eternal joy, praise, and thanksgiving in heaven. Therefore, in the Book of Revelation, palms point to those who remained faithful through tribulation and now share in Christ’s victory. However, the greatest symbolism of the palm is in the Gospel Account. The Gospel of John specifically states that the crowd took palm branches and went out to meet Jesus, shouting “Hosanna” (John 12:13). This event is commemorated each year on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter.

PALM IN CHRISTIANITY:

Palms became the symbol in Christianity largely because of their cultural meaning in the ancient world and the specific events recorded in the Gospels. In

Christianity, the palm mainly symbolizes victory, triumph, peace, and eternal life. In the Christian context, they represent Christ’s victory—especially over sin and death. A key example is the event Christians commemorate on Palm Sunday. According to the Gospels, when Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem before his crucifixion, people welcomed him by waving and laying palm branches on the road. This signified that they were greeting him as a king or messiah. More so, in Christian art, martyrs are often depicted holding palm branches. The palm represents their spiritual victory—they may have died for their faith, but they triumphed spiritually. The palm also appears in the Book of Revelation, where a great multitude stands before God holding palm branches, symbolizing salvation and eternal life. Because palms were used in celebratory processions, they also came to represent joyful praise and peace. Finally, remembering the Triumphal Entry (John 12:13), palm branches are distributed in churches on Palm Sunday to recall the moment when crowds welcomed Jesus Christ into Jerusalem by laying palm branches on the road and waving them in celebration. So, over time, Christians begin weaving the palm leaves into the shape of a cross during or after the service. The cross shape adds deeper symbolism. Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus’ triumphal entry, but it also begins Holy Week, which leads to his crucifixion. Shaping the palm into a cross reminds believers that the celebration of Palm Sunday leads to the cross of Christ and also that Jesus’ victory ultimately comes through his sacrifice. The palm represents the peace Jesus brings and the hope of salvation.

Rev. Fr. Francis Nnamdi Nonyelu
St John Fisher RC Church, Merton

***“We are an Easter
people and Alleluia
is our song!”***

- St. John Paul II

PARISH NEWS

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

As I begin a new chapter working in Youth Services within the Archdiocese, I want to take a moment to say a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone in our parish community.

Over the past nine years as Parish Secretary, it has been a privilege and a blessing to serve you all. I am deeply grateful for the many kind messages, beautiful cards, generous gifts, and warm wishes I have received. Your thoughtfulness has truly touched me.

When I first began this role, I could not have imagined how much this parish would come to mean to me. What started as a position quickly became something much more — a family. I have shared in so many important moments of parish life: helping parishioners with their questions and booking masses for their families, supporting loved ones through funerals, and organising parish events and liturgies throughout the years.

Some of the special occasions that stand out include our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch, Confirmation celebrations, and the many parish gatherings that brought us together in faith and friendship. Being a guest at the recent Afternoon Tea was a real joy as I appreciated all the hard work that went on behind the scenes to prepare and run such a beautiful event.

Together we have also faced times of deep sadness, particularly in the loss of Canon Acton, Sister Catherine, Deacon Fred, and Bishop Tripp. Walking alongside our community during those times of grief and remembrance is something I will never forget. The faith, love and unity shown in those moments spoke volumes about the heart of this parish.

It has been a privilege to walk with you through both joy and sorrow. The trust you placed in me, especially during times of loss and vulnerability, is something I will always carry with gratitude.

While I am excited to take on my new role working with young people across the Archdiocese, it is not easy to
With heartfelt gratitude,

say goodbye. I will truly miss the daily conversations, the laughter in the parish office, and the sense of togetherness that makes this parish so special.

Please know that you will remain in my prayers, and I know that our paths will cross again in the future. Thank you for nine wonderful years of faith, friendship, and shared service.

Melissa Russell

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churchservices.tv/merton

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[more details >](#)

We would like to thank you most sincerely for financially supporting our Parish. Your continued financial support to the Parish is still very much needed and very much appreciated. Please visit our website - [St John Fisher Merton](#) or email merton@caos.org.uk to find out how you can give. Thank you.



● LIVE

NEXT LIVE SERVICE

09:00 - Daily Mass

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday	9:00 am	Daily Mass
Saturday	9:00 am	Daily Mass
	6.00 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:00 am	Sunday Mass
	9.30 am	Sunday Mass
	11.00am	Sunday Mass
	6.30pm	Sunday Mass

**IF YOU FEEL ILL
PLEASE STAY AT HOME**



PARISH EVENTS

AFTERNOON TEA

On Saturday 14th February, a group of us hosted an afternoon tea in the Church hall. The idea came about when we were discussing how many people have beautiful things (tea sets, crockery etc) which are no longer used, but are stored in our cupboards or lofts!



This occasion put these treasured items to good use while earning much needed funds for our Church hall. Thank you to our fellow parishioners for their support and for their feedback, which has been noted. We hope to host another function later in the year.

Your Celebrations Team



We had such a wonderful time at the Valentine's Day Afternoon Tea on Saturday!

A heartfelt thank you to all the amazing volunteers who made the afternoon so special. From the delicious homemade treats to the beautifully set tables adorned with fine china, every detail added a touch of elegance and care.

It was a joy to gather together for conversation, laughter, and fellowship in such a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Events like this remind us how blessed we are to be part of such a thoughtful and generous parish community.

Thank you for the time, effort, and love you poured into the day — it truly made the afternoon unforgettable!

Melissa Russel



DEMENTIA DISCO



The Inaugural event on Sunday 25th January afternoon was a huge success. The Mayor of Merton along with the Co-founders from Stockport were in attendance along with many guests who never stopped dancing. Thanks to everyone who supported the Fund Raiser which raised £1550.00 to kick start this project. We are hoping to hold the Disco on the 4th Sunday of each month, 2.30 to 4.30. Next dates 22nd March, and 26th April. Everyone living with Dementia and their family and carers welcome to a free party. Call 0300 102 7042 or email hello@dementiadisco.org or visit www.dementiadisco.org to book your FREE tickets.

Canute D'Aguiar

“Fasting is directed to two things, the deletion of sin, and the raising of the mind to heavenly things.”

– Saint Thomas Aquinas

STAMP COLLECTION

A reminder that there is a box at the back of the church for your used regular and Christmas postage stamps.

These stamps are passed to the *Jesuit Missions Stamp Group* who meet monthly to sort the stamps. They are then sold to a dealer and the proceeds used to fund *Jesuit Missions* projects. This raises a considerable sum for the Missions.

Thank you for your donations!

JESUIT
MISSIONS 

JESUS CHRIST, OUR KING AND SAVIOUR

Through faith we believe in God and his son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, who is the creator of all from the vastness of the cosmic expanses to the very least of his tiny creatures. God's creative power is unquestionably a Kingship that no one can match. St. John in his Book of Revelation declares that ".... To him who loved us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us to be a kingdom 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev 1:5-8). So with Jesus our king, who rules over all things, even our very self, our families, our friendships, our work and all that we do, we can through his grace, keep the faith. He is the one and only steadfast and reliable friend that we can turn to at every moment of our lives. Unlike earthly kings, who demand of their subjects total loyalty even unto death.

Photo Credit from Pixabay User ID::247194
Febwerret



We can see this in places like Ukraine and Gaza today and many other places where rulers put power and might before God's people. Pope Leo XIV in his new book "Peace be with you", reminds us that creation is "a caress of the creator" and God never blesses violence. When we look at the example of Jesus our King who laid down his life for us, we see an example unlike that of any earthly king. We see Jesus as dignified, silent in front of his detractors, yet he is named ("King of kings and Lord of lords") in the book of revelation (Rev 10:16)

We are also reminded that Jesus told us "Behold I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). How would we know Jesus and where might we meet Him? If we love our neighbour as we should love God, then we meet Jesus in all our neighbours. Respect for others helps us to love better.

In the Gospels we follow the life of Jesus on earth. The liturgical year, starting with Advent and leading on to the last Sunday of the liturgical year, when Jesus is declared King of the Universe, helps us to follow in Jesus' footsteps. We are firmly supported by St. John in

his gospel when he declares that when Jesus died (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe.

His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) these things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled (John 19:35-36). So a witness is of the utmost importance in such events when it seems almost unbelievable. That Jesus should die the scandalous death of the cross when he had been worshipped by the crowds so recently would seem difficult to absorb.

At the birth of Jesus the angels announce him to the shepherds as a Saviour born in the city of David, who is the Messiah (Luke 2:11). They returned back to their flocks praising God and announcing the good news to everyone, who were amazed. By the Incarnation we were made adopted children of God while the death of Jesus obtained for us remission of our sins. Jesus followed his Father's will to the letter with all its humiliations, its suffering and degradations so he could make us faithful children to share in his Father's Kingdom. Through the gospels we come across many instances where Jesus is highlighted as one chosen. We have very good examples of these when we say the rosary. The new addition of the luminous mysteries picks out two principle events where God the Father announces his "beloved Son," that is the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist who saw the Spirit descend on Jesus (John 1: 33-34). The

THE GUILD OF ST STEPHEN

other is the Transfiguration in the presence of Peter, James and John (Matt 17:1-8) . On both instances we have witnesses, John the Baptist who said “this is the Son of God” after Jesus’ baptism, and the three apostles who heard “This is my Son the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him,” after the Transfiguration. Jesus welcomes all who come to him and will never drive them away. This he says is his Father’s will, that we should have eternal life and that he, Jesus will raise them up on the last day. Now that we are in lent, we are reminded of all that Jesus has done for us. The liturgy recalls the final days or the Last Judgment, and reminds us of how God loves us and how to gain God’s love and friendship by following his example and his teachings thereby getting to know Jesus and the Father better and recognising our sins so we can be reconciled. Lent leads us on to the greatest mystery, the Resurrection. We can enter into this mystery by prayer and fasting of our choice but especially by contemplating the events of Holy Week especially, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Five centuries before Christ’s coming the prophet Isaiah described the Messiah to come as the servant of God who suffered for us (Is 53:3-7). It is Holy Week that draws our attention to how Jesus suffered for us. During his short life of Teaching and healing Jesus showed great compassion to the weak and vulnerable even to the end. While Jesus was on the cross, which we might also call the great throne of the Resurrection, Jesus reaches out to the “good thief” offering him “Today you will be with me in heaven” (Luke 23:40). Through this we also are offered the same Salvation. St Cyril of Alexandria wrote: “How wise the reasoning and how excellent the thoughts of the penitent thief! He became the confessor of the Saviour’s glory and the accuser of the pride of those who crucified him. Let us look at his most beautiful confession of faith. He says: ‘Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom’. You see him crucified and call him a king”. Pope Leo XIV on Ash Wednesday said that wearing ashes is “itself a sign and testimony of the Resurrection. Indeed it means that we will not remain among the ashes, but will rise up and rebuild”.

Teresa Pollard



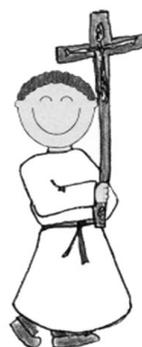
This picture of our Clergy and Servers at the end of our Mass of St Stephen on Boxing Day.

(Photo Credit: Jose Geremia)

During Mass five of our newer Servers were enrolled by Fr Francis assisted by Fr Alfred into the Guild of St Stephen. Two Servers received Silver Medals for serving for 10 years as enrolled members of the Guild. And one 5 year certificate was also presented.

Robert Roy

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN



**Are you in Year 4 or above,
have made your First Holy
Communion**

**and would like to train to
become an Altar Server?**

Please ask one of the clergy
for an application form and
return it to the Parish Office in
the Presbytery.

Being an Altar Server is a wonderful opportunity
to serve God and have responsibility during
Mass.



JUSTICE & PEACE IN ST JOHN FISHER PARISH



FOOD COLLECTIONS

Feeding Families in Need

First weekend each month (after all Masses)

The following charities are very grateful for your generous donations:

More people than ever are now being fed by charities

11th/12th April

Wimbledon Foodbank

- Sugar
- Shampoo
- Jam
- Biscuits
- UHT Milk
- Toiletries

2nd/3rd May

Faith in Action

- Packet soups especially chicken soup
- Pot Noodles or similar
- Multi-packs of crisps
- Packets of biscuits
- Large bottles of undiluted squash
- Ring-pull cans of mackerel, tuna or sardines
- Protein bars
- Jars of jam, marmalade and honey.

6th/7th June

Christian Care

- Biscuits
- Cooking Oil
- Basmati Rice
- Tins of fish/meat
- Tins of fruit
- Toiletries
- Sardines
- Protein bars
- Jars of jam, marmalade and honey

4th/5th July

Wimbledon Foodbank

- Sugar
- Shampoo
- Jam
- Biscuits
- UHT Milk
- Toiletries



RED WEDNESDAY—NOVEMBER 2025

The Justice and Peace group would like to thank all those who helped to make Red Wednesday so meaningful.

Red drapes highlighted the red on the sanctuary, together with the red vestments and altar drops. The Rosary was dedicated to those persecuted for their faith, each decade of the Sorrowful mysteries

At this Mass the ACN Courage to be Christian award was presented to Tobias Yakaya, a 26 year old catechist and father of four from Sokoto, Northern Nigeria, who almost died when anti-Christian extremists broke into his home and stabbed him in the chest. He told us most movingly how he forgave his attacker and hugged him in court. And despite all



meaningfully linked to those who suffer.

Fr. Francis offered the Votive Mass for Persecuted Christians while Fr Alfred led us in thought provoking Bidding Prayers.

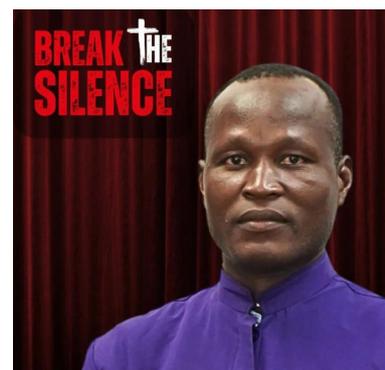
And the congregation supported the prayers by coming to the rosary and to Mass wearing red garments. Thank you to you all. In the evening, and for the rest of the week, the Church was lit externally in red.

That evening, some of us attended Mass at St George's Cathedral where we heard Aid to the Church in Need's report on Religious Freedom in the World. Shockingly, worldwide, more than 5.4 billion people live in countries where serious religious freedom violations take place.

this he continues his ministry as a catechist.

We were also urged to sign ACN's petition urging world leaders to act on behalf of those who are unable to practise their faith, a right guaranteed by Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

www.acnuk.org/article18





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT



St John Fisher, Wimbledon at 10.30 am

What a joy it was to welcome a large number of friends from neighbouring parishes as well as our own, to celebrate the World Day of Prayer.

Written by women of Nigeria, the theme of the service was "I will give you rest, come", based on the Gospel of St Matthew (11:28-30). Four women told of the burdens they carry: insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair, mirroring the struggles of many around the world. All four women told how their faith and the support of their community helped them carry their burden. The stories were interspersed with meaningful prayers and carefully chosen hymns, beautifully led by Mary and her choir.

It is truly uplifting to feel not only united to our sisters in Nigeria but to fellow worshippers all over the globe from dawn in Samoa to sunset 36 hours later in American Samoa - a truly World Day of Prayer.

Following the service, most people came into the hall for tea, tropical juice and fruit, Nigerian biscuits and lovely cakes. Many stayed and enjoyed Ann and Jadzia's delicious soup. This made it a very sociable event.



I have to thank so many people for contributing to the success of the day: Fr. Francis for welcoming us all, giving us Nigerian authenticity and teaching us Igbo, Breda for acting as leader, Mary and the choir for the lovely music and singing, Margaret and Sheila for the refreshments served beautifully in the hall, Ann and Graham for offering much appreciated soup to many of our guests and so many more who helped make the service so moving and our visitors so welcome.

Julie Sheahan



Justice and Peace Charity of the Year 2026



Song from World Day of Prayer Service

*Keleya, keleya nobueze,
Keleya, keleya nobueze,
Keleya Jisus nobueze,
Jisus I di nma.
Give him thanks, he is King,
Give him thanks, he is King,
Thank you Jesus, you are King,
Jesus, you are good.*

Prayer for Peace

Ever-loving God, who hears us in our anguish and distress, and longs for us to be free.
We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East, at this time of fear and uncertainty.
Be near to those who are anxious; bring comfort to all who are suffering.
Guide those with the power to make decisions, and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation: that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation.
Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places, in praying for peace with justice, through him who is the prince of peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
A prayer by the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford.

This year the Justice and Peace group have chosen to support and highlight the work of **PACT – Prisoners Advice and Care Trust**.

Pact is a pioneering national charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families. They are the leading Catholic charity working in the criminal justice system. They provide caring and life-changing services at every stage of the justice process: in court, in prison, on release, and in the community.

Pact was founded in 1898 as the Catholic Prisoners' Aid Society. From the very beginning, they supported both prisoners and their children and families.

Today, Pact is an inclusive charity supporting people of all faiths and none across England and Wales. They continue to be inspired and shaped by their roots in the Catholic Church and Catholic Social Teaching.

Every year, more than 80,000 families and 200,000 children and young people are affected by imprisonment. Pact's work keeps families together, delivers safer prisons and reduces reoffending.

You can read more about this charity at <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk>

PARKING NEAR THE CHURCH

Please remember to be considerate of our neighbours when parking your car for Mass.

**Do not obstruct
driveways or park on
grass verges.**

Please also keep the church entrance clear and refrain from parking by the church wall alongside. In an emergency an ambulance will need to get around the car park.



Your Magazine Needs You!

Share your stories, photos, and inspiration
with the community



Places to Visit

Write about a pilgrimage, a past
holiday, or a hidden gem



Books/Films

Recommend a good Catholic
book or film



Ask the Clergy

Send in a question for a future issue



Friday Fare

'Meatless' recipes, articles,
with photos very welcome



Other Contributions

Poems, art, reflections, and more

When submitting articles, we would be grateful if these can be
within 450-900 word limit.

Send your contributions to: merton@rcaos.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Christian CARE provides support to families in need in Merton. The families referred to us often face challenging circumstances. A little bit of time and help can make a significant impact on their lives, allowing them to thrive.

We are looking for volunteers for a variety of roles:

- **Summer Outing Organiser** (shadowing existing volunteer in 2025)
Plan our annual trip to the seaside, making travel arrangements and liaising with families who would like to come
Location: Mostly from home, plus annual outing usually in August
Time: Flexible, more intensive nearer the trip
- **Bedding Team**
Help sort out bedding donations and prepare them for families
Location: Martin Way Methodist Church
Time: Thursdays from 10:30-12:30
- **Budgeting and Signposting Volunteer**
Working with families to ensure they get the most appropriate support - training is provided
Location: Client's home or public place
Time: At least 2 hours per week
- **Befrienders**
Visiting a family regularly, getting to know them and support them
Location: Client's home or public place
Time: From 1 hour once per month
- **Food Delivery Drivers**
Deliver a food parcel to a family in Merton
Location: Driving throughout the borough
Time: Once a month on the 2nd/3rd Monday of the month



For more information, please contact
jenny.clayton@christiancaremerton.org.uk
07932 628840
www.christiancaremerton.org.uk

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FRIDAY FARE



BUTTERNUT SQUASH AND CARROT SOUP

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp coriander seeds
- 40g butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 sticks celery, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, chopped
- 1 large butternut squash, chopped
- 3 large carrots, chopped
- 850ml vegetable stock
- 1 tbsp honey
- Juice of half a lemon
- White pepper
- A few leaves of coriander for garnish

Method

- 1, In a hot, dry frying pan, toast the coriander seeds for 1-2 minutes. Set aside to cool, then crush them using a mortar and pestle.
- 2, Melt the butter in a large saucepan and sweat the onion and celery for 10 minutes. Add the garlic, butternut squash and carrots.
- 3, Pour in the stock, cover the pan and simmer gently for 30 minutes. Blend the soup to your preferred consistency, adding a little more liquid if you like.
- 4, Stir in the honey and lemon juice, season, then garnish with coriander leaves before serving.



LIFE CHARITY



In Memory of Life Co-Founder
Professor Jack Scarisbrick MBE



It is with great sadness that we hear of the death of Jack Scarisbrick, who, with his wife Nuala, founded the charity Life in 1970.

I have many memories of Jack, generally with Nuala. Together they welcomed us to numerous Life conferences. I remember in particular a training weekend for Life speakers at which I qualified as a volunteer speaker for school talks and Life Sundays. I still have the certificate which Jack signed. There can have been few weekends that this devoted couple spent at home together, as they travelled round the country visiting local Life groups, opening Life shops etc.



One great occasion in London was the concert we gave to celebrate Life's Silver Jubilee in October 1995. It was held in the hall of Leighton House in Kensington - a beautiful setting. Jack and Nuala were both present and greatly enjoyed the evening. Somebody knew that Jack loved Schubert.

The programme therefore included some Schubert songs. I took part in two recorder duets and also sang in the choir. I believe the evening was organised by Josephine Quintavalle.

In conclusion, I can only echo the words which Jack wrote to me after my husband's death in 2020: "He gave his heart and soul to the cause. And he kept us all on our toes: always full of ideas....may he now enjoy the heavenly reward for all his selfless devotion to the Lord's work in this life!

Christine Davies Wimbledon Friends of Life

MOTHERS' PRAYERS



This parish prayer group
meets on
**Fridays at 9.30-
10.00am**
in the Day Chapel.

Please come along and pray for your child, children or grandchildren. Anyone who wishes to attend is most welcome.

There is a notebook to the right of the Holy Family statue for you to add the child/grandchild's name that you wish the group to pray for.

"Easter reminds us that God's love is stronger than any suffering or darkness we may encounter."

- Saint Padre Pio

SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE BEREAVED

ST JOSEPH'S SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE BERREAVED



This group is for anyone who has lost a loved one whether that person is a spouse, sibling, child, parent or friend.

It is NOT a counselling session.

We meet once a month in the Parish Hall on Wednesday afternoons between 1:30 and 3:00pm. In a safe, confidential environment we listen to each other as we share, or not, experiences, feelings and thoughts over a cup of tea/coffee and cake. We learn about the stages of grief.

Tissues to hand, and friendly faces can help, for a moment, to ease the pain. As the world moves forward around us we can feel very alone and isolated in our grief, but we are not alone.

Please feel free to drop in and see for yourself.

Catharine Dooley

Youth Days/Retreats Southwark Catholic Youth Service

Youth Days (10-14 years)

These days engage those aged 10-14 to grow in knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus in a fun environment.

They help young people understand their faith through talks on a theme of the Catechism and Q/A. Nurture their spiritual lives through Eucharistic Adoration, praise, music and Confession. Build community through sports, games, crafts, and pizza!

Our next youth day is on Saturday 9th May 2026
11am to 5:00pm at The John Fisher School, Purley

Youth Retreats (13-17 years)

Our Youth Retreats, ideal for confirmation groups or parish youth groups, aim to help teenagers grow closer to Christ.

Our retreats use external providers such as the Dominicans and NET Ministries to provide days where our young people can grow closer to Christ through prayer, workshops, games and pizza. Dates for Our next youth retreats are:

18 April 2026—11am to 4pm at St. John Fisher,
Chatham
19 September 2026 11am to 4pm St. George's
Cathedral
08 November 2026 11am to 4pm St. John Fisher,
Chatham

Mission Team

Our Mission team is comprised of young adults who volunteer to provide Saturday parish retreat days for youth and Confirmation groups in our parishes.

Our team are students and professionals aged 18-35 who give one Saturday every two months to lead retreats and serve young people in parishes and schools across the Archdiocese. They receive comprehensive initial and ongoing formation to prepare them.

Applications are open to those aged 18–30 at the time of applying.

Please email the Youth Service on youth@rcaos.org.uk or call 020 7928 5256 with any queries or visit

<https://rcaos.org.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/> to book a place on any of the youth days or youth retreats.

ST JOHN FISHER PARISH KIDS SECTION



R	P	A	R	A	D	E	S
E	B	U	N	N	Y	G	U
S	A	C	W	X	A	G	N
U	S	H	P	N	Y	S	D
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- CHOCOLATE
- SUNDAY
- RESURRECTION
- LILY
- BASKET
- EASTER
- PARADE
- BUNNY
- LAMB
- SPRING
- EGGS
- CARROT
- CHICK

JESUS



LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR 2026

Calendar of Feasts and Fasts

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day	Thu.	25 December 2025
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Sun.	28 December
Mary, Mother of God	Thu.	1 January 2026
The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Tue	6 January
The Baptism of Our Lord	Sun	11 January
The Presentation of Our Lord (Candlemas)	Sun.	2 February
Ash Wednesday **	Wed.	18 February
Saint Joseph	Thu	19 March
The Annunciation of the Lord	Wed	25 March
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	Sun.	29 March
Maundy Thursday	Thu.	2 April
Good Friday **	Fri.	3 April
Easter Sunday	Sun.	5 April
Saint George, Protector of England	Thu	23 April
The Ascension of Our Lord	Thu.	14 May
The Feast of Pentecost, Whit Sunday	Sun.	24 May
Mary, Mother of the Church	Mon.	25 May
Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest Feast	Thu.	28 May
The Most Holy Trinity	Sun.	31 May
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Sun.	7 June
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Fri	12 June
Saint John Fisher & Saint Thomas More	Mon	22 June
Nativity of St John the Baptist	Wed	24 June
Saint Peter and Saint Paul, apostles	Sun.	28 June
The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Thu	6 August
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sun	15 August
The Exultation of the Holy Cross	Mon	14 September
All Saints	Sun.	2 November
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	Sun.	22 November
First Sunday of Advent (Sunday Cycle: B)	Sun.	29 November

Bold entries above denote Holydays of Obligation (and every Sunday too).

** Days of Fasting and Abstinence.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2026



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

*The intentions are keys to live our faith in daily life, joining action to our prayers.
Each intention presents a challenge that gives purpose to the month.*

APRIL

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

MAY

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

JUNE

For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT ST JOHN FISHER (YEAR A) 2026 SCHEDULE

Sunday 29th March 2026: Palm Sunday

Mass will begin with the blessing of palms
Holy Mass: 6:00pm (Saturday), 8:00am, 9:30am (Family), 11:00am, and 6:30pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 4:00pm
Evening Prayer of the Church 4:45pm
Stations of the Cross: 7:30pm

Monday 30th March 2026

Holy Mass: 6:45am and 9:00am
Confessions: 9:30 – 10:30am
Lenten Talk: 7:30pm – 8:45pm (Parish Hall)

Tuesday 31st March 2026

Holy Mass: 6:45am and 9:00am
Confessions: 9:30am – 10:30am

Wednesday 1st April 2026

No Confessions today
Holy Mass: 6:45am and 9:00am
Stations of the Cross: 7:30pm

Thursday 2nd April 2026: Maundy Thursday

Confessions: 9:30 – 10:30am
Lenten Lunch (Parish Hall): 12noon – 2:00pm
Holy Mass: 5:00pm for Children and Senior Citizens
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 8:00pm
Watching and praying until 11:30pm
Night Prayer of the Church: 11:00pm

Friday 3rd April 2026: Good Friday

Solemn day of fasting and abstinence
Service of the Passion at 11:00am (Children mime the Passion)
Passion of the Lord: 3:00pm
Confessions after the 11:00am and 3:00pm Services
Stations of the Cross: 7:30pm with the veneration the Cross

Saturday 4th April 2026: Holy Saturday

No Masses at 9:00am or 6:00pm
Confessions: 9:30 – 10:30am
The Easter Vigil: 8:00pm (The First Mass of Easter)

Sunday 5th April 2026: Easter Sunday

Holy Mass: 8:00am, 9:30am (Family), 11:00am, and 6:30pm

Monday 6th April 2026: Easter Monday

Holy Mass: 10:00am

Tuesday 7th April 2026: Easter Tuesday

Normal Parish Programmes begin

TALKABOUT PARISH MAGAZINE - 2026 DATES

Deadline for submitting items	Sunday 14 June	Sunday 15 Nov
Distribution Weekend	11 & 12 July	12 & 13 Dec

The *Talkabout* Editorial Team welcome contributions to the magazine from our Parishioners.

You can submit news or other articles by email at merton@rcaos.org.uk or via the Parish Office in the Presbytery.



Coffee, tea, squash & biscuits are served in the Hall after 9:30 am and 11:00 am Mass each Sunday.

Everyone welcome!



Deadline for articles to be included in the next edition of *Talkabout* must be with the Editorial Team before

SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2026



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Thursdays (term time only)
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The Parent and Toddler Group invite pre-school children and their parents to come along and create new friendships within our church community.

£3 admission (includes refreshments and a new craft activity each week). Admission is limited to 30 children to ensure a fun and safe environment.



Any questions?
Please contact Pippa at
pipnlindsay@gmail.com

To advertise in TALKABOUT

Please contact:

Parish Secretary
merton@rcaos.org.uk

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Quarter Page	£15
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(inside)	£30
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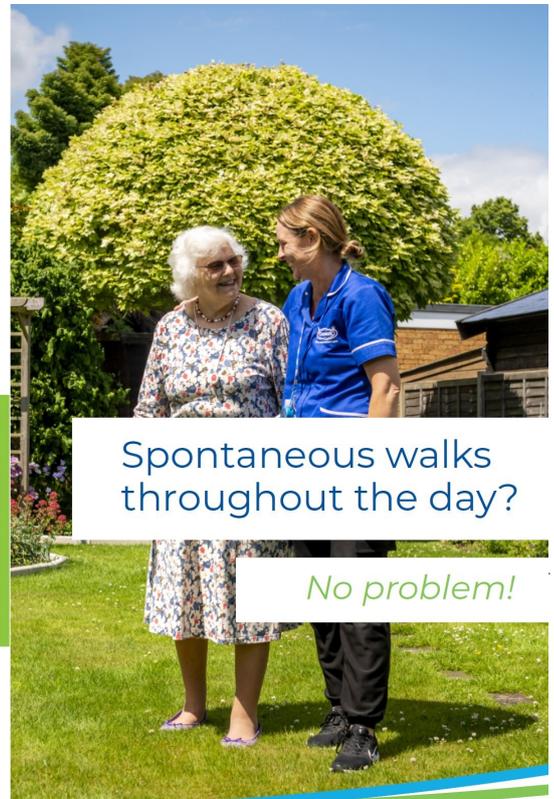
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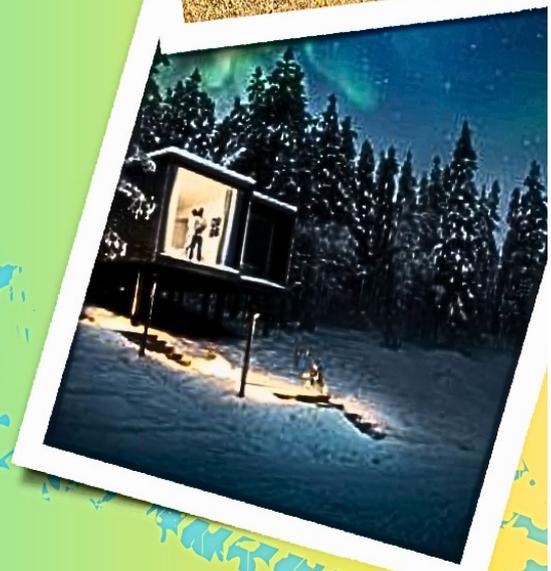
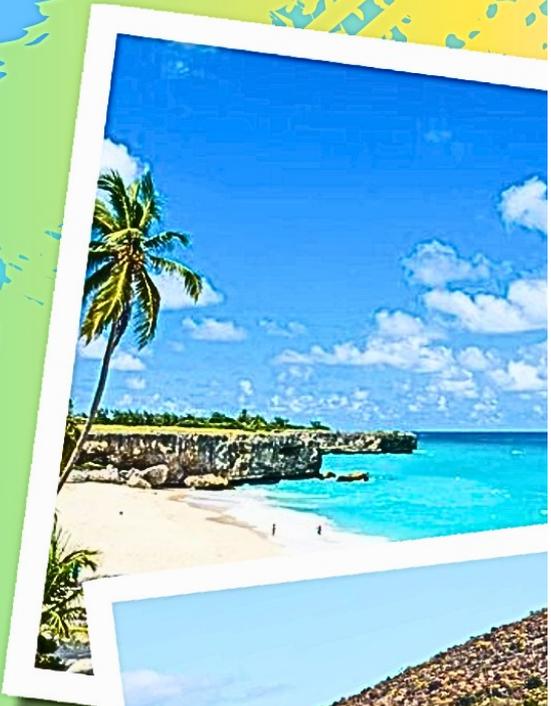
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ST JOHN FISHER PARISH HALL HIRE

Our parish hall is now available to hire at times when it is not being used by our parish activities.

**Are you looking for a space to host your child's birthday party
or family get together?**

**Do you know a group that is looking for a space during a weekday for a
dance/fitness/music class?**

The hall is available for private hire during weekdays (apart from Thursday) and during the day on Saturday (10.30am to 5pm) and Sunday (1.30 to 5.30pm).

Our parish hall is *not* available for hire in the evenings.

**If you would like to book our hall, please visit
www.lowcosthalls.co.uk/location/merton-church-hall
or call the booking management company,
Praetorium, on 01372 457651
for more information**

£40 per hour

(Reduced rates will be offered for regular bookings)

*Please do not contact the Parish Office with hire enquiries
unless the event relates to a parish event or group (bereavement included).*

ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH REPOSITORY & BOOKSHOP

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Please visit the school website or contact the school office for details.

St John Fisher RC Primary School

Grand Drive

West Wimbledon

London SW20 9NA

Telephone: 020 8540 2637

Email: school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk

Website: www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk

St John Fisher
Senior Citizens Club

**Are you free
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PARISH GROUPS

	Who for?	When?	Where?	Run by?	Contact Details?
Altar Servers	Parishioners (post-First Holy Communion)			Robert Roy	raroysms@gmail.com
Choir 11am Mass	Church Choir	Practice: Tuesday 3.00-4.30pm	Church Choir Loft	<i>To be advised</i>	
Music Group 9.30am Mass	Singers and Musicians		Family Mass	Volunteer Needed	
Guild of Our Lady	Parish children (Year 5 & above)	Monday evening	Day Chapel	-	merton@rcaos.org.uk
Justice & Peace Group	Parishioners	Once a month	Venue varies	J&P Team	sjf.justiceandpeace@gmail.com
Over 60s Club	Parishioners	Thursday 1.00-3.00pm	Parish Hall	Kathleen Healy, Julia Doherty & Margaret Redding	margaretredding11@hotmail.com
RCIA	Anyone wishing to learn more about Catholicism	Tuesday 8.00pm	<i>To be advised</i>	Miriam Davis	merton@rcaos.org.uk
Readers	Please speak to the Clergy if you would like to read	Mass	Church	Clergy	207 Cannon Hill Lane merton@rcaos.org.uk
SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society)	Needy parishioners	Help available as needed	By arrangement	SVP Team	merton@rcaos.org.uk 020 85426355
Talkabout	Parishioners	Editorial Team meet quarterly	Venue varies	Editorial Team	merton@rcaos.org.uk
Teams of Our Lady	Parish Families	Each Team meets monthly	Homes of members	<i>To be advised</i>	
Toddler Group	Children (birth - 4 yrs)	Thursday Term Time 9.30-11.30am	Parish Hall	Pippa Lindsay	pipnlindsay@gmail.com
Youth Group	Parish children (Year 6 & above)	Alt. Friday 7.30– 9.30pm	Parish Hall	Rosslynne Jorge, Tanya Coyne & Jovita	youthclub.stjohnfisher@gmail.com

UNIFORM GROUPS

Uniform Groups Coordinator: Margaret Redding margaretredding11@hotmail.com

Rainbows	Girls (5 - 7 yrs)	Monday 4.15-5.15pm	Parish Hall	Sandy Brown	SJFRain- bowsandGuides@outlook.com
Brownies	Girls (6 - 9 yrs)	Monday 5.30-7.15pm	Parish Hall	Andrea Brandwood <i>Brown Owl</i>	Brownowl3rdMorden@ outlook.com
Guides	Girls (10 - 14 yrs)	Tuesday 6.00-7.40pm	Parish Hall	Sandy Brown <i>Guide Leader</i>	SJFRain- bowsandGuides@outlook.com
Beavers	Boys & Girls (6 - 8 yrs)	Friday 5.45-7.15pm	Parish Hall	}	}
Cubs	Boys & Girls (8 - 10 ¹ / ₂ yrs)	Wednesday 6.00-7.30pm	Parish Hall	}	Tracy Sterlini <i>Group Scout Leader</i> fifthmordengsl@gmail.com
Scouts	Boys & Girls (10 ¹ / ₂ - 14 yrs)	Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm	Parish Hall	}	}
Explorers	Boys & Girls (14 - 19 yrs)	Tuesday 7.45-9.30pm	Parish Hall	Tom Carter & Andy Newman <i>ESLs</i>	dtjambo@yahoo.co.uk

PARISH DETAILS

ST JOHN FISHER PARISH



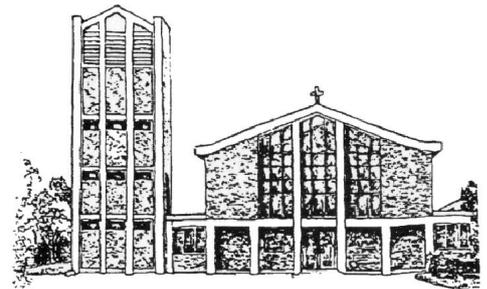
Parish Admin.
Fr Francis
Nonyelu



Assist. Priest
Fr Alfred
Mamman



Deacon
Tom
Kavanagh



Address: The Presbytery
207 Cannon Hill Lane
Merton, London SW20 9DB

Telephone: 020 8542 6355

E-mail: merton@rcaos.org.uk

Website: www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StJohnFisherParishMerton>

Parish Secretary: To be confirmed
9am - 2.00pm Monday & Thursday

Baptism: 3:00 pm First Sunday of the month
by prior arrangement

Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30 - 10:30 am
in the Hall

Mass Times:

Weekdays: 9:00 am

First Fridays: 8:00 pm

Holydays: 6:00 pm (Vigil), 9:00 am & 7.30 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am & 6:00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00 am
9:30 am (Family Mass)
11:00 am (Sung Mass)
6:30 pm

Repository: 20 minutes before & after
the 9.30am Sunday Mass and
the 6.00pm Saturday Mass

ST JOHN FISHER PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Fr Francis
• President

Deacon Tom
• Ex-Officio
• Apostolate

Peter Nash
• Deputy Chair

Collette Farley
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