



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

11th January 2026 The Baptism of The Lord (A)

Mass Intentions For This Week

Saturday 10th	5:30-5:50pm	Confessions
	6:00pm	St Anthony (Thank You)
Sunday 11th The Baptism of The Lord (A)	8:00am	Jacob Marshall McAllister & Stephanie McAllister RIP (Anniv.)
	9:30am	People of The Parish
	11:00am	Carol Counsell RIP (5th Anniversary)
	3:00pm	<i>Baptism Service</i>
	6:30pm	Dr Lawrence John Lobo & Sophia Lobo & Children
Monday 12th	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Marcellina Chiejina
Tuesday 13th	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	George Sothinathan (Thanksgiving)
Wednesday 14th	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Jacqueline Folan RIP
Thursday 15th <i>Bidding Prayers</i>	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Lennie Heather RIP (Anniversary)
	9:30-10:30am	Weekly Adoration
Friday 16th	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Delia & Canute (Intentions)
Saturday 17th <i>St Anthony, Abbot</i>	9:00am	Brian Carter RIP
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions
Saturday 17th	5:30-5:50pm	Confessions
	6:00pm	Delia & Canute (Intentions)
Sunday 18th	8:00am	People of The Parish
	9:30am	Sharon & Barry Peck RIP
The Second Sunday of The Year(A)	11:00am	James Walsh RIP
	6:30pm	Catherine Wilmott RIP
Peace Day		

Reflection

Today we mark the occasion of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which also marks the last day of the entire Christmas season in our liturgical calendar and year.

In the gospel, Jesus steps out of the hidden years of Nazareth and into the waters of the Jordan. He does not need repentance, yet he chooses to stand where sinners stand. In doing so, he reveals the heart of God, a God who does not remain distant, but enters fully into our human story.

The readings draw our attention to identity. In the first reading, the Servant of the Lord is presented as one chosen, upheld, and delighting the heart of God. This servant brings justice not by force, but by gentleness. The Gospel reveals this servant clearly. As Jesus is baptised, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the voice of the Father is heard, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Before Jesus performs a miracle, preaches a sermon, or gathers disciples, he is affirmed in love. His mission flows from this relationship, not the other way around.

This moment at the Jordan also speaks directly to us. Our baptism is not simply a ritual from the past or a family celebration captured in photographs. It is the foundation of who we are. In baptism, the same words are spoken over us in a quieter way, you are my beloved child. We are claimed by God before we achieve anything, before we prove ourselves worthy, before we succeed or fail.

The challenge of this feast is to live from our baptismal identity. Many of us spend our lives trying to earn value, approval, or security through status, possessions, or recognition. The Baptism of the Lord calls us back to a deeper truth. We are already loved. From that love flows our call to live differently, to stand with the vulnerable, to act justly, to forgive generously, and to resist the temptation to define ourselves by anything other than God's love.

As we begin Ordinary Time, the waters of the Jordan invite us to remember our own baptism. They ask us to step again into the grace already given, and to allow God to say once more, not only to Jesus but to each of us, "You are my beloved." Living that truth may be the most demanding, and the most freeing, task of all

Quote of the Week

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

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>



Parish Notices

Funerals

Please pray for the families:

Timothy Wright RIP - Weds 21st Jan at 12 Noon

Marlene Kirton RIP - Thurs 22nd Jan at 11:30am

Annual Holiday/Vacation

Fr Francis will be on his annual vacation in the month of January. Please contact Fr Alfred if you need the attention of a priest.

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.

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.

Joining Beavers at St. John Fisher? Get on the List!

The 5th Morden St. John Fisher Beavers waiting list is now open. Want your child to join the fun at St. John Fisher Church Hall? Just email 5thmordenbeavers@gmail.com with: 1. Your child's name, 2. Date of birth, 3. Your mobile number, 4. Your email address.

Archdiocesan Pilgrimages for Young Adults

Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are invited to join Archbishop John on pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 7 to 13 June 2026. The cost is £789, which includes flights and full-board accommodation on a shared basis. To book, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/lourdes26 Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are also invited to register interest for the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Korea in August 2027 at www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027 For information about youth activities for all ages across the Archdiocese please visit our website at www.tinyurl.com/scys1

Medjugorje Apostolate Annual Retreat

13th to 15th March at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton, led by Fr Svetozar Kraljević OFM. For more information and to book please contact Paul Spencer at pilgrimsomary@hotmail.com

Over 60'S Club

Returns on Thursday 15th January from 1pm to 3pm

Boxes of Love - Thank You

A huge 'Thank You' to the staff, parents and children from St John Fisher Primary School for the beautiful 'Boxes of Love' that they provided for the senior citizens of our parish.

First Holy Communion Candidates - June 2026:

There will be a mini-penitential service for the first holy communion candidates at the 9:30am Mass next Sunday.

Youth Club

Returns for years 6/7 on Friday 23rd Jan and Friday 6th Feb and for years 8-10 on Friday 30th Jan and Friday 13th Feb from 7:30pm in the hall. New Volunteers/Leaders are URGENTLY required

Can you pass the IKEA test?!

Christian Care Merton -the local charity that helps families and individuals in difficulties- has revised its 'furniture project'. It is going to provide new flatpack rather than second hand furniture to clients. Many of our parishioners volunteer in various capacities; would you like to help by assembling furniture? Contact Graham Bennett 07792699948

Parish Business

Monday 12th January from 7pm to 8pm.

Christian Unity Octave:

From 18th to 25th January the Church observes eight days' prayer for Christian Unity.

Fr Agnelo Mass 2pm Sunday 18th January

Everyone is invited to pray for the Canonization of Fr Agnelo followed by light refreshments in the hall. All those with connections to Goa are encouraged to participate. Contact 07944 692920 for further details.

White Flower Appeal - 17th/18th Jan:

Next Sunday there will be a second collection for the White Flower Appeal, dedicated to protecting unborn children and promoting the right to life in society. The Society for the protection of the Unborn Child appeals in Churches raise awareness of pro-life matters to parishioners and the donations we receive allows SPUC to continue our tireless work to build a culture of life. We work to educate youth, lobby politicians, mobilise pro-life activities in the community, provide support to students facing crisis pregnancies and much more.

Peace Sunday - 18th January:

Next Sunday, 18th January is Peace Sunday. "The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our Vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice." Envelopes are available at the back of Church for your donations to Pax Christi. Donations can also be made on the contactless machines.

Church Cleaning - January

Wednesday 21st January from 9:30am to 10:30am

New Volunteers welcome.

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**

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

