

## Parish Notices

### Advent meetings

Use Advent to refresh your faith by joining us at three sessions on the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Meetings continue on Monday 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>

### Christmas Decorations/Flower Collection

This weekend there is 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.

### Parish Business

Monday 15th December from 7pm to 8pm.

### Funeral: Naomi Whetton RIP

Monday 22nd December at 11:20am

Please pray for the family.

### Jubilee Mass - Friday 19th December

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

### Missio - World Mission Sunday

Thank you to all those who contributed to the recent second collection for Missio, we raised:

**£ 930.94**

### 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.

### Dementia Disco

The organisers thank everyone who supported the Dementia Disco fundraising. The monthly get-together for local people in Merton living with dementia, their families, and carers will take place on the 4th Sunday of each month, starting Sunday, 25th January 2026, in the Parish Hall. Enjoy free food and drinks, sing-along music, and dancing from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Prior booking is essential – please see the leaflet on the notice board for details.

### 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](https://rcaos.org.uk/media/oyzhvzb5/ctbf-consultation-report-oct-25_compressed.pdf)

### 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 group returns on Thursday 15th Jan 2026.

### 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.

### Church Cleaning - December

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

### Senior Citizens Party - Thank You:

Thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas lunch for our senior citizens on Sat 13th Dec. It was a wonderful occasion and we are so grateful to all the volunteers who gave up their time so generously to ensure the event ran smoothly. Thank you also to our extremely generous sponsors for their support. God Bless You. Fr Francis.

### CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue

Catalogues are available from the back of Church.

### 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](mailto:school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk) Web: [www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk](http://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](mailto:merton@rcaos.org.uk)  
[www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk](http://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

## 14th December 2025 The Third Sunday of Advent

### Mass Intentions For This Week

<b>Saturday 13th</b>	5:30-5:50pm	Confessions
	6:00pm	Pat & Kitty Tobin (50th Wedding Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 14th</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent (A)</b> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	8:00am	People of The Parish
	9:30am	Charles Vaz RIP (19th Anniversary)
	11:00am	Alfonso, Antionetta & Michael Proto RIP
	6:30pm	Dr Lawrence John Lobo & Sophia Lobo & Children
<b>Monday 15th</b>	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Aoife Betts RIP Anniversary
		Esther Fitzgerald (Intentions)
<b>Tuesday 16th</b>	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Sister Marion RIP
		James Walsh RIP
<b>Wednesday 17th</b>	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Roisin O'Neill-McCaul (Health)
		Reginaldo Cabral (Intentions)
<b>Thursday 18th</b>  <i>Bidding Prayers</i>	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Catherine Agboegbulem
		Shirley & Adrian Donaghue
	9:30am - 3pm	<i>Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament</i>
<b>Friday 19th</b>  <i>Jubilee Mass</i>	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	All Souls In Purgatory
		James Walsh RIP
	6:30pm	Confessions
<b>Saturday 20th</b>	7:00pm	The Holy Land at Christmas
	9:30-10:30am	Confessions
	9:00am	Sisters Mairead & Kathleen
<b>Saturday 20th</b>	5:30-5:50pm	Confessions
	6:00pm	Langan Family (Intentions)
<b>Sunday 21st</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)</b>	8:00am	Leslie D'Sa RIP Anniversary
	9:30am	Helen & Tim Daly RIP
	11:00am	People of The Parish
	6:30pm	Kenneth & Cynthia Crowe RIP

### Reflection

#### THREE CHRISTMAS COMPONENTS: JOY, PRAYER, AND GRATITUDE

The third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday". We celebrate the peace, hope, and joy Christ brought into the world at His birth. "Rejoice in the Lord always; I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near": this is the invitation of this Sunday from the Entrance Antiphon (Philippians 4:4-5).

God's loving care for His children is a cause for rejoicing. With Christmas just a few days away, the liturgy of Gaudete Sunday invites Christians to joy. That is to say, always remain in joy, even when things do not go according to our desires. The joy of the Christian comes from faith and the encounter with Jesus Christ, the source of true joy. The more we are rooted in Christ, the more we find inner serenity, even in the midst of everyday contradictions like John the Baptist in today's Gospel.

Pope Francis said that the Christian who has met Jesus cannot be "a prophet of misfortune" but must be "a witness and a herald of joy". This is "a joy to share with others; a contagious joy that makes life's journey less tiring." Share this heavenly joy this Christmas. As children of God, we can never be tired of singing the glory of the Lord at Christmas because our Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled Himself to share our humanity (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 526).

Indeed, there may be times in our lives when our faith is weakening, our hope is fading, and our charity is waning – turn again to Christ. And also, be encouraged by the words of Prophet Isaiah in today's Communion Antiphon: "Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and He will save us."

#### Quote of The Week

"Come, Lord, and save us"  
(Isaiah 35:4).



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)