



St John Fisher Merton

Fisherman's Herald

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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

25th January 2026 The Third Sunday of The Year (A)

Reflection

The Church celebrates the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as the Sunday of the Word of God, a day set aside to renew our love for Sacred Scripture and to place God's word at the heart of Christian life. Pope Francis established this celebration in 2019. On this day, we are reminded that the Bible is not merely a book from the past but God's living voice, speaking to us today.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks to a people who have known darkness, fear, and uncertainty. Into that darkness, God's Word announces hope, light, and joy. This is not a distant promise but a living assurance that God does not abandon his people. The Word reveals God as one who enters human history to restore dignity and guide his people forward.

The Gospel shows the fulfilment of this promise in Jesus. He begins his ministry by proclaiming a simple but demanding message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." His Word is immediately followed by action as he calls ordinary people to follow him. The fishermen respond not because they fully understand, but because the Word spoken to them carries authority and life. God's Word calls, and those who listen are changed.

The Sunday of the Word of God invites each of us to reflect on how we receive Scripture. Do we allow God's Word to challenge our habits and comfort our fears? Do we make space for it in our homes, our prayer, and our decisions? Scripture is not meant only to be heard at Mass but to be lived daily, guiding us as disciples of Christ.

When welcomed, the Word of God brings light in darkness, unity in division, and direction in daily life.



Quote of the Week

"The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2)

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

Maintenance of St George's Cathedral

There is a second collection this weekend for the maintenance of St George's Cathedral, Southwark, the mother Church of the diocese. This collection helps meet with the cost of the upkeep of the Cathedral.

Christian Unity Octave:

Ends today, 25th January the Church observes eight days' prayer for Christian Unity.

Church Parade

At the 9:30am Mass today for the uniform groups.

Parish Business

Monday 26th January from 7pm to 8pm.

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.

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

Tea / Coffee - 8am Mass Next Sunday

There will be tea/coffee served in the hall after the 8am Mass next Sunday. All Welcome.

Racial Justice - Second Collection - Next Weekend

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice. This collection supports the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

Hall fundraiser

Please join us in the hall for an Afternoon Tea on the 14th February 2026 from 3-5pm. Tickets £15.00/ person (cash only) available after all weekend Masses.

Memory Walk 25 (Alzheimer Society)

'The Memory Walk 25 account is now closed. Thanks to your generosity, the sponsorship money collected amounted to £1571 (£981 online + £590 parishioners cash donations/cheques) for which I thank you as does the Alzheimer Society.' - Josette

Flower Collection

Thank you to all those who donated towards our recent collection for church flowers/decorations. We raised £473.06

Crib Collection - Catholic Children's Society

We have sent a total of £435.63 to the Catholic Children's society. These funds were donated during our Christmas 2025 crib appeal.

SPUC - White Flower Appeal 2025

Thank you to all those who donated towards our recent second collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC), we collected £312.35

Funerals

Please pray for the families:

Catherine Cullen RIP

Thursday 19th February at 12:30pm

Tony Bygrave RIP

Friday 20th February at 12 noon

Youth Club

Returns for years 6/7 on Friday 6th Feb and for years 8-10 on Friday 13th Feb from 7:30pm in the hall.

New Volunteers/Leaders are **URGENTLY** required

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.

Racial Justice Sunday

St George's Cathedral Sunday 1 February 2026, at 10am. Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Archdiocese. Everyone is invited to take part, and those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity and pride. If you would like, please gather outside the cathedral at 9.45am to join the procession of national flags. After Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall for refreshments — a chance to meet one another, share experiences and continue the conversation about faith and inclusion.

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 pilgrimsofmary@hotmail.com

Church Cleaning - February

Wednesday 4th and Wednesday 18th February from 9:30am - 10:30am. New Volunteers welcome.



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

Margaret Birch, Mark Lobo, Louise Hosking, Ethan Peruzzo, Stewart Davis, Bernie Simmons, Seeta Seenayah, Margaret Pumford, Douglas Desmier, Anastasia Coyle, 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

