

St John Fisher's Church 17th December 2023

Early Edition

**St John Fisher Parish Community
Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt
Gaudete Sunday 17th December 2023**



Gaudete Sunday in Advent

9.30am	Mass	
2.00pm	Carols for Peace	
Monday	18th December	O Adonai
Tuesday	19th December	O Radix Jesse
9.00am	Mass	
9.30am	Adoration	
11.00am	Tea Coffee available in the Hall	
Wednesday	20th December	O Clavis David
9.00am	Mass	
9.30am	Adoration	
7.00pm	Service of Reconciliation and Confession	
Thursday	21st December	O Oriens
6.30pm	Adoration & Confession	
7.30pm	Mass	
Friday	22nd December	O Rex
11.00am	Adoration in the Shrine	
12.00 noon	Mass in the Shrine	
Saturday	23rd December	Vigil 4th Advent Sunday
11.00am	Adoration	O Immanuel
12.00 noon	Mass	
Sunday	24th December	4th Sunday of Advent
9.30am	Mass	
5.00pm	Sunday 24th December	First Mass of Christmas
10.00am	Monday 25th December	Christmas Day Mass
12.00 noon	Boxing Day	Mass of St Stephen

Christ Brings the Deepest Joy

Today is "Gaudete Sunday." The word "gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice," and in the Latin version of today's Mass, it's the very first word. The liturgy for every Mass begins with a short verse from the Bible, called the "entrance antiphon." That verse can also be substituted by a hymn, but in the official liturgical books, every Mass begins with an entrance antiphon. The third Sunday of Advent has been "Gaudete Sunday" ever since the time of Pope St Gregory the Great, in the sixth century. It's the reason for the rose-colored Advent candle. Why is the Church inviting all believers to rejoice at the midpoint of Advent? Because Christ's coming to earth, which Advent looks forward to, is the only source of the true, lasting joy. Joy is the deep satisfaction experienced whenever we come into possession of something good. But all the good things in this world, apart from God, are temporary and fragile. Money, success, health, even friendship and being in love - all these things are limited. If circumstances change or enough time passes, we either become tired of them, or they go away. And so, the joy that comes from possessing them is only a temporary joy. But our hearts are thirsty for a joy that will never go away, because that's what we were created for. Our deepest desire is to be known and loved completely, unconditionally and everlastingly, by another person. Only God can fulfil that desire. But original sin cut this world off from friendship with God, and so the human heart was stranded. On Christmas Day, two thousand years ago, God came to our rescue. And now, because of Christ, the true, lasting joy that each one of us desires more than anything else, is possible. That's why the Entrance Antiphon doesn't just say, "Rejoice." It says, "Rejoice in the Lord."



SUNDAY THE 17TH OF DECEMBER AT 2PM

At St John Fisher R.C. Church Manchester Road Kearsley BL4 SQQ. Come and join us with your family for Christmas Readings and to sing for **“PEACE IN THE WORLD”** Proceeds for Caritas Salford Diocese

GOOD NEWS *Letting Joy Blossom*

That's what Christmas is really about: Jesus becoming one of us, to save us, to prove God's love for us, to teach us the art of living, and to share his very life with us.



Mass Intentions. We Pray for peace in Eastern Europe, the Holy Land and for the people suffering there and other theatres of war. We pray for world leaders to follow a way to peace and justice. **For all our sick and housebound:** Please pray for Chloe, Brian Mather, Rose McGann, Nora McDonald, Fr John Cooper, Sally Gibson, Jane Shades, Pauline Millington, Eileen Kehoe, Bob Plover, Ruth Dawson, Pauline Kent, Peter Hughes, Maureen Manion, Lynda Robinson, Ann Kirby, Paul Grogan, Leo Mazza, Doreen Mazza, Hilda Plover, Hildegard Cornelius, Avril de Mink, Barbara Conners, Maureen Rogers, Sheila Barker, Martin Hotchkiss, Alice Hindley, Pat Pearson, Bernard Dunn, Edith Hamilton, Sheila Bocker, Peter Fenton, Marie Fenton, John Ward, Jane Jordan, Rita Derbyshire, Peter Tracey, Linda Muir, Sharon Simpson, Anne Holland, Mary Cole, Bob Cole, Elizabeth De Chazal, Joan Eastwood, Maria Edwards, Agnes McFadden, Fr Michael Savage, Eric Derbyshire, Eileen Johnson, Jane Boyle, Pat Jones, Lee Pomfret. **For those, who died recently** Dave Bold, Gerrard Healey, Martin Dalton, Marie Morley, Paul Neary, Paul McFarlane, Imelda Mountfield, Bernadette McArt. **On the Anniversary** of Ged Hughes, Bernard Fairclough, Nora Greene, Douglas Johnson, Bernard Jordan, Winifred Curliss, Emma Sheldon, Winifred Jordan, Captain Patrick J Lynch, Annabelle Avison, for my dad Austin and my lovely mum, Nanny and Grandad. For a precious granddaughter. For Janet Cassidy, Angela Fenton and for Dominic Mazza, Marie Jones, Theresa Karey. For a special intention.

Christmas Masses: Brian Stocks, John Carabine, Alison Birch, Bernard Jordan, Winifred Jordan, Ray Mazza, Members of the Neary family, Dennahey family, O'Connell and Macdonald families Anna Cook, for Hilda Plover and family, Jimmy & Denise Nicholas, Paul Cooper, Leo & Doreen Mazza, and Angela Fenton. For Mary Neary on her 80th Birthday

MARRIAGE MATTERS *We have been anointed by God*

A TV programme poses the question: 'Who do you think you are?' When John, baptising in the desert, was asked this question, to paraphrase he replied: "I am a voice, drawing attention to something greater than you can see or hear." Our marriages are like this! We are a 'sign' radiating God's love for all His people.



Bolton Urban Outreach - Grub Tub Bolton Urban Outreach badly in need of donations. Please bring one item each time you're here. Thanks for all the help so far.

Advent Programme

2.00pm	Saturday 16th December	Advent Covenant Mass
2.00pm	Sunday 17th December	Carols for Peace
7.00pm	Wednesday 20th December	Service of Reconciliation
9.30am	Sunday 24th December	4th Advent Sunday Mass
5.00pm	Sunday 24th December	First Mass of Christmas
10.00am	Monday 25th December	Christmas Day Mass
12.00 noon	Boxing Day	Mass of St Stephen
9.30am	Sunday 31st December	Mass Holy Family

Lightening the Advent Wreath

Light the **Advent** candle three
Think of heavenly harmony
Angels singing "Peace on Earth"
At the Blessed Saviour's birth.

Refrain
Candle, candle, burning bright,
shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright,
fill our hearts with Christmas
light.

Lord God, may we, your people,
who look forward to the birthday
of Christ experience the joy of
salvation and celebrate that
feast with love and thanksgiving.
We ask this through Christ our
Lord. Amen.