

St John Fisher's Church 11th February 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am	Mass	
12.00noon	Adoration	
Monday	12th February	Weekday
Tuesday	13th February	Weekday
9.00am	Mass	
9.30am	Adoration	
11.00am	Café	
Ash Wednesday	14th February	Fast & Abstinence
9.00am	Mass with distribution of Ashes	
9.30am	Adoration	
7.00pm	Mass with the Distribution of Ashes	
Thursday	15th February	
6.30pm	Adoration	Lent Weekday
7.30pm	Mass	
Friday	16th February	Lent Weekday
11.00am	Adoration in the Shrine	
12.00 noon	Mass in the Shrine	
3.00pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	17th February	Vigil 6th Sunday
11.00am	Adoration	
12.00 noon	Mass	
2.00pm	Marriage Preparation	
Sunday	18th February	1st Sunday Lent
9.30am	Mass	
12.00 noon	Adoration	

Marriage Preparation Course will be on Saturday 10th and 17th February at 2.00pm
Registration Forms for First Holy Communion available at the back of Church
Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent 14th February 2024

Early Edition

St John Fisher Parish Community
Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt
11th February 2024 Sixth Sunday



Confidence and Humility Strengthen Our Prayer Life

In today's world, we can all use help with our prayer life, and the leper in today's Gospel passage gives it to us. He reminds us of two key elements in a healthy life of prayer: confidence and humility. The first thing to note is that this leper has no doubt that Christ can cure him. He says to the Lord, "If you wish, you can make me clean." It's hard for us to have so much confidence. Our secular culture is constantly sidelining God. This tends to make us think that we can solve all our problems ourselves, through science, technology, or hard work. But if we think that, then we don't really have faith in God; if God is irrelevant, he's not much of a God, after all. But the leper didn't live in a secular culture; he lived in a religious culture, one that recognised the reality of sin and evil, and the need of God's grace to overcome them.



And so he came out of his isolated and self-destructive bubble of self-sufficiency and exercised his faith. The second thing to note is that the leper also recognises that he has no right to demand a cure. He doesn't act like a spoiled child and say, "Cure me!" he says, "If you wish..." It's as if he were saying, "You know what's best; if curing me will give you glory, please do so, but if not, I will still believe and trust in you." Only the humble heart can tap into the roaring stream of mercy that flows from Christ's Sacred Heart, mercy which not only cured the leprosy, but touched the leper, something no one else had done since the disease began. If our prayer weaves together confidence and humility, God will be able to do wonders in us as well.

Season of Lent

Lent is the time when we as the Family of God prepare for the commemoration of Easter when we celebrate the Paschal mystery. It is the time when those joining full communion with the Church prepare for Baptism and the Sacraments of



Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. We begin with Ash Wednesday a day of Fasting and abstinence, join our Lord in his Way of the Cross and look forward in hope to the Resurrection of the Lord.

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 Candy Harris, Elizabeth & John Ward, Anna Abraham, Susan Irvine, 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 Connors, 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, Bob Cole, Elizabeth De Chazal, Joan Eastwood, Maria Edwards, Agnes McFadden, Eric Derbyshire, Eileen Johnson, Jane Boyle, Pat Jones, Lee Pomfret. **For those, who died recently** Thomas Alexander Shades, Mary Gaskell, Margaret Cogger, Michael McGuire, Anthony James Manik, Mary Cole, Mary Green, Fr Michael Savage, David Farrer, Tom McClean **On the Anniversary** of Henry Massey, Kathleen & Alf Lomax, Harry Woodward, Emily Neary, Patrick Sargent, Helen Cunningham, Joseph Blower, Rita Cooper, Patricia Crolla, Paul Neary, Mary Connaughton, Barney Shannon, Paul Barnes, Ged Hughes, Bernard Fairclough, Nora Greene, Douglas Johnson, Bernard Jordan, Winifred Curliss, Emma Sheldon. For a precious granddaughter. **Birthday Remembrance** for Sheila McDermott. For Janet Cassidy, Angela Fenton and for Dominic Mazza, Marie Jones, Theresa Karey. For Paul Cooper, Brian Madden on his Birthday. In the intention of Harris family, Arun and Swanti and Holy Souls in purgatory.

MARRIAGE MATTERS *Keeping our love alive*

Sometimes we have a sense of being at odds and separated from each other. The question, often unasked, is 'do you love me?' The answer is the same as Jesus gave to the outcast leper 'of course I do!' From being apart, we can be one again. How often do we say to each



other 'I love you'?

GOOD NEWS *Jesus himself is our hope.*

He dwells in every Christian heart, redeeming our fallen nature and strengthening us against evil influences.



New Addition to the Schoenstatt Father's UK

A new member of the Schoenstatt Fathers will be joining us here at the Shrine, St John Fisher's at the end of February 2024. Father Herbert Opara a member of our Community from Nigeria was ordained in May 2013. He has had a number of assignments in Formation and in Parishes. He worked in our Parish in Rome for four years before returning to Ibadan, working in Community there. We look forward to welcoming him. At this time Fr Reginald is on home leave and will return on 8th February 2024.

WEEKLY LISTENING REFLECTION *Trusting God's Voice in Times of Uncertainty*

Dear Lord, in moments of uncertainty and doubt, I place my trust in Your unwavering voice. I pray for the strength to hold fast to Your guidance and wisdom during these times of instability. May my prayers bring me the assurance and peace that only You can provide. Amen.

