

# St John Fisher's Church 18th February 2024

## First Sunday in Lent

9.30am	Mass	
12.00noon	Adoration	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>19th February</b>	Lent Weekday
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>20th February</b>	Lent Weekday
9.00am	Mass	
9.30am	Adoration	
11.00am	Café	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>21st February</b>	
9.00am	Mass with distribution of Ashes	
9.30am	Adoration	
12.30pm	Hands of Hope	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>22nd February</b>	
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Adoration</b>	The Chair of Peter
7.30pm	Mass	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>23rd February</b>	Lent Weekday
11.00am	Adoration in the Shrine	
12.00 noon	Mass in the Shrine	
<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24th February</b>	Vigil 2nd Sunday Lent
11.00am	Adoration	
12.00 noon	Mass	
2.00pm	Covenant Mass	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25th February</b>	2nd Sunday Lent
9.30am	Mass	
12.00 noon	Adoration	

Registration Forms for First Holy Communion available at the back of Church. Please contact Fr Reginald or Anne Howard for details of when the classes start .



Final Edition

St John Fisher Parish Community  
Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt  
18th February 2024 first Lent Sunday



## Sin and Salvation Are the Two Focal Points of Lent

Two images from nature dominate this First Sunday of Lent. In these images we find the key for living the next six weeks deeply and fruitfully, as God is hoping we will live them. The first image is that of the desert. After Jesus was baptised, but before he began his years of public ministry, St Mark tells us in today's Gospel that the Spirit "drove Jesus out into the desert," where he experienced temptation. Throughout the Bible, the desert is often referred to a place of testing, where we experience our

weakness and dependence on God. Water and food are hard to come by there, and the temperatures and emptiness are oppressive to both the body and the mind. The desert is a place where our illusions of self-sufficiency and comfort fade away. When we are in the desert, either literally or figuratively, we quickly realise that we need God. In other words, the desert



is the opposite of the Garden of Eden. It is the place of suffering and hardship that sin has led us to. Both original sin and also our own personal sins have interfered with God's plan for our lives and for our world; they have put us in need of salvation. The second image in today's Readings is the flood, the abundance of water that cleansed the world of sin at the time of Noah. That ancient flood of water foreshadowed Christian baptism, the flood of grace that purifies our souls from sin, bringing new spiritual life into the desert of our sin-damaged hearts. Sin and salvation: our sins, and Christ's loving sacrifice that leads to salvation. These are the most fundamental aspects of our Catholic faith, and these are the themes that should fill our hearts and minds throughout the season of Lent.

**First Holy Communion Classes.** The programme starts on Sunday 3rd March 2.00pm - 4.00pm Please contact Fr Reginald and Anne Howard

### **GOOD NEWS** *Spreading the News*

In God's providence, all of us have the immense privilege of living in this time of fulfilment. We should think often about where we have come from and where we are going: created by God, wounded by sin, redeemed by Christ, called to everlasting life..



**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 Alec Watson, Candy Harris, Elizabeth & John Ward, Anna Abraham, Susan Irvine, Chloe, Brian Mather, Rose McGann, Nora McDonald, 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** Jean Hughes, 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 Angela Fenton Hilda & Brian Madden on their Birthday. In the intention of MacDonald family, Harris family, Arun and Swanti and Holy Souls in purgatory.

### **MARRIAGE MATTERS** *We hunger for closeness*

'Wilderness' can be a reality in our marriage relationship at times, a kind of 'desert experience': hungering for a gentle touch or return of the closeness in our relationship. Yet, we can look back on such times and recognise the Spirit was at work. God's grace was in our yearning, calling us to choose life and turn away from self-indulgence.



### **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. Welcome back to Fr Reginald from home leave.

### **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 began 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.



### **WEEKLY LISTENING REFLECTION** *Discerning God's Voice in Everyday Moments*

Dear Heavenly Father, as I navigate the everyday moments of life, I seek to discern Your voice. Grant me the awareness to recognise Your guidance in the ordinary, and the wisdom to respond. May my prayers be a source of illumination in the routine of life. Amen.

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