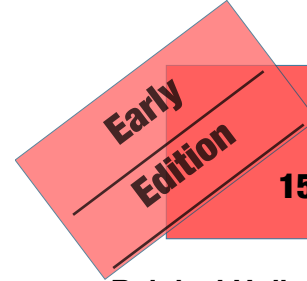


St John Fisher's Church 15th December 2024



**St John Fisher Parish Community
Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt
15th December 2024 Third Advent Sunday**



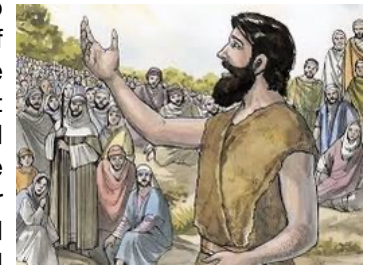
Sunday 9.30am 11.30am 1.30pm	15th December Mass Confirmation Sophia & Oisín D'Arcy-Blood Baptism Adaeze Deborah Chibuzo Carols for Peace	Gaudete Sunday
Monday	16th December	
Tuesday 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 7.00pm	17th December Mass Adoration Café Advent Service of Reconciliation	Advent Weekday O Wisdom
Wednesday 9.00am 9.30am	18th December Mass Adoration	Advent Weekday O Lord
Thursday 6.30pm 7.30pm	19th December Adoration Mass	Advent Weekday O Root of Jesse
Friday 11.00am 12.00 noon	20th December Adoration Mass	Advent Weekday O Key of David
Saturday 11.00am 12.00noon. 2.00pm	21st December Adoration Mass Covenant Mass	Vigil 4th Advent Sunday O Rising Sun
Sunday 9.30am	22nd December Mass	Fourth Advent Sunday O King
Tuesday	Christmas Eve	Mass at 5.00pm
Wednesday	Christmas Day	Mass at 10.00am
Thursday	St Stephen's Day	Mass at 12.00noon No Evening Mass

**Livestream Link: on YouTube:
Facebook**

**<Schoenstatt YouthUK>
<Schoenstatt Family England>**

Rejoice! Holiness is Easier Than You Think

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday". It takes its name from the entrance antiphon for today's mass which begins with the Latin word Gaudete—that is, "Rejoice"! In Lent, we have Laetare Sunday, and in Advent, we have Gaudete Sunday. There is a link between them because the initial conception of Advent, in the mind of the Church, was of a period of penitential preparation before the Nativity, akin to a shorter version of Lent. Thus, the Advent season took on some of Lent's characteristics: A series of weeks. Purple vestments at Mass. A mid-season day for rejoicing (today!) Special days for prayer and penance. These two Sundays are a break from the penitential aspect of the season and a reminder that for Christians, the true state of Christian being is one of joy, not sadness, one of celebration, not penance. And John the Baptist has a joyful message today! The Messiah is coming! But he also has another message that is not directly said but is inferred from his words. John makes holiness and righteousness accessible to all. Two points to consider. First, while John leads a very severe lifestyle, he does not make his way of life the only way of life. John's way of life included: Fasting. Long periods of prayer. A limited diet of only wild food. Poverty and lack of possessions. Celibacy. Preaching. Living outside of community. And yet John does not make any of these characteristics of his life as binding on anyone else. He gives the crowds of people some very accomplishable things to do. All of them are to be converted from sin and to be baptised. Then they are to live good lives. The crowds are told to live out charity toward the less fortunate. The tax collectors are told to be just. The soldiers are told not to abuse their power. This means for us today that wherever you are and whoever you are, sainthood is in your grasp. As we continue our preparations for Christmas, let us rejoice in waiting and relish the moments of preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child. Jesus is not demanding of us anything that is not possible for us where we are. A Christian way of life is simply a more beautiful and transcendent way of living. This is why today we rejoice, and our hearts are full of Advent hopefulness!



Mass Intentions. In the month of November we pray for the Holy Souls. We pray for the people affected by the floods in Spain. 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 Bridget & John Dalton, Hilda Musthill, Margaret Harris, Diane Middleton, Avril de Mink, Hildegard Cornelius, Barbara Conners, Angela Fenton, Alice McEvoy, Debbie Shades James Neary, Lily Alker, Celia Eccleston, Alice Hindley, Pat Pearson, Peter Hughes, Joe Dalton, Sheila McKay, Anne Holland, Annamma, Kate Martin, Konrad Ostmeier, Elaine McNally, Joan Eastwood, Paul Ormerod, Irene Wood, Sally Gibson, Jane Shades, Pauline Millington, Eileen Kehoe, Ruth Dawson, Pauline Kent, Maureen Manion, Lynda Robinson, Paul Grogan, Leo Mazza, Doreen Mazza, Hilda Plover, Maureen Rogers, Sheila Barker, Sheila Bocker, Peter Fenton, Marie Fenton, John Ward, Jane Jordan, Rita Derbyshire, Eric Derbyshire, John Derbyshire, Peter Tracey, Linda Muir, Sharon Simpson, Maria Edwards, Agnes McFadden, Eileen Johnson, Jane Boyle, Pat Jones, Lee Pomfret. Successful operation Melissa Jayne Ashford. **For those, who died recently** Eileen Greenough, Bob Plover, Jane Huxley, Rita Tunstall,. **On the Anniversary** of Nora Greene, Douglas Johnson, Patricia Van Minnen, Paul Neary. Birthday Remembrance for Thomas Shades. **Special Intentions** Margaret Chick, Joanne Raynor, Janet Cassidy, Marie Fenton, Nikki Fenton and for Dominic Mazza, Marie Jones, Theresa Karey, Shevlin family, for Chloe Fenton, Rita Derbyshire, Hilda Plover, Anne & Konrad, Harris family, Anna Abraham, Arun & Swany. **Christmas Masses** Betty & Rita Mills, Eveline & Norman Smith, Nora & Vincent Robinson, O'Connell and MacDonald families

GOOD NEWS *The Joy of Serving Others*

Catholic charity is not performed merely because it's a nice thing to do or because we are utopian-minded people. We practice charity because Jesus has chosen to associate himself with those who are the little ones.



Silver Jubilee of the Shrine

Next year in October 2025 we have the Silver Jubilee of the Blessing of the Shrine. Our Shrine has been designated by Bishop Arnold as one of the places to gain graces of the Holy Year through receiving the Holy Year Indulge. Throughout the year pilgrims will make their way to the Shrine to be welcomed by our Parish and the Schoenstatt Family. In a special way the members of the Parish are invited to join with the Schoenstatt Family to celebrate this Silver Jubilee. A number of workgroups are starting to meet to plan a programme. If you would like to join one of the workgroups please talk to Fr Bryan or Edmund Birch.

MARRIAGE MATTERS *Rejoice in God's gift*

Today we are invited to 'Rejoice' and recognise 'God is in our midst'. This theme of celebration is manifest in our love and acceptance of each other. Though our life will fade with the passing years, the love we have for each other will continue to grow. We are always God's delight, His gift to His people.



Advent

Sunday 1st December is the **First Sunday of Advent** and we will have **the introduction of the new Lectionaries** as the book of readings from the Bible at Holy Mass.

Carols for Peace Sunday 15th December at 1.30pm

Come and join us with your family

Christmas Fayre Total £2,098.41

Thank you for all the work put into our Christmas Fayre. Thanks to Susan Riley and the fundraising team for a very successful event
Raffle prize: Jo Malone Candle & Fragrance **Pink ticket 128**

Light the Advent candle, three:
 Think of heavenly harmony;
 angels singing "Peace on earth"
 at the blessed Saviour's birth.

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

