

St John Fisher's Church 22nd December 2024

Sunday 9.30am	22nd December Mass	4th Advent Sunday
Monday	23rd December	
Tuesday 5.00pm	24th December First Mass of Christmas	Christmas Eve
Wednesday 10.00am	25th December Mass of Christmas Day	Christmas Day
Thursday 12.00 noon	26th December Mass No Evening Mass tonight	St Stephen
Friday 12.00 noon	27th December Mass	St John the Evangelist
Saturday 11.00am 12.00noon.	28th December Adoration Mass	Holy Innocents
Sunday 9.30am	29th December Mass	Holy Family
Tuesday	31st December	Mass at 9.00am
Wednesday	New Year's Day	Mass at 10.00am

**Livestream Link: on YouTube:
Facebook**

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

The Schoenstatt Fathers wish you every joy for Christmas, every Blessing in the New Year and every Grace of the Holy Year of the Church and Jubilee Year of the Shrine.

Fr Andrew, Fr Reginald, Fr Herbert, Fr Duncan, Fr Bryan.

**Early
Edition**

**St John Fisher Parish Community
Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt
22nd December 2024 Fourth Advent Sunday**



He is our Peace

The wait is almost over. Christmas is only 5 days away. Maybe your Advent has flown by, and you can't believe that Christmas is already just around the corner. You're asking yourself, where did Advent go? Or maybe Advent has been very fruitful for you this year. Either way, today is a moment to recommit.

The Church gives us this 4th Sunday of Advent as a last reminder that Christ is coming. The first reading, from the book of Micah, reminds us that Christ is coming. "Bethlehem, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." The Psalm says: "Rouse your power and come to save us." And then the gospel gives us the meeting of Elizabeth and Mary. The wait is almost over, and Elizabeth realises it. She says: "How is it that the Mother of my Lord comes to me?" There's a sense of anticipation, someone is coming. And he is The Prince of Peace.



There doesn't seem to be a lot of peace in the world. Terrorist attacks abound. We have shootings in our own country. Evil and injustice can appear overwhelming. Is peace possible? On our own, no it's not. The English philosopher Thomas Hobbes said that human life is nasty, brutish, and short. And if we look at life without Christ, Hobbes is right. But in the first reading today, Micah tells us something more. The first reading ends with these powerful words: "He shall be peace." Who's he talking about? Jesus Christ. Isn't that interesting? It doesn't say that the Saviour will bring peace, but that He is peace. Why is He peace? Because peace means wholeness. If we are not OK with God, then we can't be at peace with ourselves or with others. Saint Teresa of Calcutta used to say: "I'm not ok, and you're not ok, and that's why Jesus came." But in Jesus, in the sacraments that make him present here today, we come to be at peace with God. In the sacrament of Reconciliation, our sins are forgiven and we're at peace with God. In the Eucharist, we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and we're united to God. And that experience brings an awareness of the great story into which all our individual stories fit. We start to see others with the eyes of Christ. So Christ himself is Peace.

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** Edmund Holland, Eileen Greenough, Bob Plover, Jane Huxley, Rita Tunstall,. **On the Anniversary** of Bernard Fairclough, 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** Patricia Van Minnen, Avril de Mink, Alison Birch, Mary Grogan, Ann Saunders, Brendan Grogan and Patricia, Betty & Rita Mills, Eveline & Norman Smith, Nora & Vincent Robinson, O'Connell and MacDonald families

GOOD NEWS *Being Channels of God's Peace*

Today the Church reminds us that Jesus truly is the Lord of history, that God's Providence is powerful enough to guide the course of world events, and to bring meaning and order to the struggles and sufferings of our own lives..



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 *The welcome sound of the return of our loved one*

Today we hear of Mary's time away visiting Elizabeth. This might remind us of times we face spending extended periods on our own. At first it may seem liberating, but loneliness can soon kick in. How loving then our return home is! Maybe the challenge here is ensuring that demonstrating our love and affection is not restricted to such occasions.



The Well Farnworth Food Bank We received a thank you card from the Well for the regular contributions made by our Parish. Over the year we have donated 420kg of stock (2% of their total donations). Further to that over the Christmas period we have already donated £280.00 of shopping from Asda

Carols for Peace

This was a great success and congratulations to the children and the adult team members. We collected £420.00 for Bolton Sunday Street Kitchen which provides every week a Sunday meal for over 40 people in Bolton.

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
Uncollected Raffle prize: Jo Malone Candle & Fragrance Pink ticket 128

Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore; Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.Candle.

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

