

St John Fisher's Church

Laetare Sunday in Lent

Sunday 9.30am 12.00noon 2.00pm	30th March Mass Adoration First Holy Communion Class	Mothers' Day
Monday	31st March	Lent Weekday
Tuesday 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am	1st April Mass Adoration Café	Lent Weekday
Wednesday 9.00am 9.30am	2nd April Mass Adoration	Lent Weekday
Thursday 6.30pm 7.30pm	3rd April Adoration Mass	Lent Weekday
Friday 11.00am 12.00noon 3.00pm	4th April Adoration Mass Stations of the Cross	Lent Weekday
Saturday 11.00am 12.00 noon	5th April Adoration Mass	Vigil Fifth Lent Sunday
Sunday 9.30am 12.00noon	6th April Mass Adoration	Fifth Lent Sunday

**Livestream Link: on YouTube:
Facebook
Webpage**

**<Schoenstatt YouthUK>
<Schoenstatt Family England>
<<https://schoenstatt.org.uk/>>**



St John Fisher Parish Community
Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt
30th March, Laetare fourth Lent Sunday



God's Main Characteristic Is Mercy This parable is one of the best known stories in all of human literature. But what does it really mean? We call it the parable of the prodigal son, but should we? Is it primarily about that younger son, who abandons his father and squanders his life in extreme self-indulgence and sensuality? Jesus told the parable to tax collectors and sinners, but also to Pharisees and Scribes. In fact, he told it in response to some of their questions. Now the Pharisees and Scribes were considered the experts in religion; the ones who avoided sin and followed the law perfectly. They were like the other brother in the parable, the older brother. So maybe we should call this the parable of the arrogant son instead of the parable of the prodigal son. The older brother was arrogant: his heart was like a rock, judging everyone and considering himself superior to everyone, just like the Pharisees. So who is Jesus really speaking to, the prodigal sons, or the arrogant sons? Those of us who have a superiority complex and are harsh judges of our neighbours, or those of us who can't control our instincts and urges? There is a third option, after all, the real hero of the parable is not one of the sons, but the father. He is the one who rushed out to welcome the prodigal son, unconditionally. He is the one who humbled himself, coming out to reason gently with the angry older son. This parable is about the father. In this parable Jesus is giving us a portrait of God, who always takes the first step to bring us back into his friendship, no matter how far we may have strayed. This is the parable of the merciful father, because in a fallen world, mercy is God's main characteristic.



Synod Results of Voting Day Please use the link to the Webpage for Salford Diocese and search under **Home » News » Diocesan Synod: The End of the Journey** <<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/diocesan-synod-end-of-the-journey>> and you can follow the final day of the Synod.

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 Pope Francis, Paul Grogan, Teresa Johnson, Lily Harris, Edmund Birch, Helen Alker, Kelly Needham, baby Rory John, for Lynn, Joe Barlow, Daniel, Marie Fenton, Debbie Shades, Sally Gibson, Jane Shades, Thomas Shades, Benny Shades, Dominic Mazza, Helen Murray, Anthony McGinley, Nancy McCann, Maureen Lyles, Marian Dolan, Billy Hutton, Robert (car accident), Bridget & John Dalton, Diane Middleton, Avril de Mink, Hildegard Cornelius, Barbara Conners, Angela Fenton, Sheila Barker, 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, 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** Val Tyrrell, Roger Ebbrell, Elliott James Potter, Gordon Hamilton, baby Kade Jack Wild, Brian Neary, James Neary, Bill Cradden. **On the Anniversary** of Brian Stocks jnr, Mary Grogan, Alice Massey, Anne Valler, Vincent Robinson, Arthur Caswell, Nora Robinson, Mary Kenny, Vera O'Connell, Jim O'Connell, Mary Connaughton, Mary Gaskell, Thomas Shades, 'for my lovely mum', Bob Plover, Paul Neary. **Special Intentions** Birthday Remembrance for Susan Elizabeth Irvine and Pat Pastore, , for the MacDonald family, Margaret Chick, Shevlin family, for Noreen Hulme, Timothy Smith, Chloe Fenton, Rita Derbyshire, Hilda Plover, Anne & Konrad, Harris family, Anna Abraham, Arun & Swany.. For Mothers' Day Emily Neary.

GOOD NEWS *Share Your Joy: Be God's Goodness*

We are all Christ's ambassadors. We all have received the mission to spread Christ and share our Christian joy. In a sense, we are called to be God's goodness for others. In us, through our words, actions, and example, God wants them to discover how much he loves them, so that they can enter into friendship with him and experience Christian joy.



MARRIAGE MATTERS *The need for gratitude and trust*
The Gospel illustrates the Father's amazing forgiveness but the elder brother reacts angrily and is resentful and self-righteous. At times when we feel



hurt and resentful and life seems unfair, and tensions rise, we can blame each other. Jesus' message is to trust in our husband/wife, to look for their loving ways and to ask forgiveness for our own faults.

The Holy Year and Silver Jubilee of the Shrine 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 Indulgence. 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 Herbert, Fr Bryan, Patty Ganley, Anne Ostmeier or Edmund Birch.



Work in St John Fisher's Church The Tearoom has been repainted. The fire escape doors have been replaced. The overhead projector is not working and needs an upgrade. **Also our wifi system has to be upgraded.**

Offertory Donations

Would you like the convenience of making your weekly donations in an **offertory envelope**? Would you prefer to make your church donations by means of a **direct bank transfer**? **Are you a taxpayer**? If so, have you signed a gift aid declaration which means that we can reclaim the tax you will have paid on the amount you donate? This would mean that the value of the donations increases by 25% at no further expense to you. If you want envelopes, to set up a transfer or sign for gift aid please drop a note with your name and contact details into the offertory basket or you can speak to Tom Burke on 01204 578706. If you have any questions about the Gift Aid Scheme I am sure that he will answer them for you.

Prayer for the Mothers in Your Life

Dear God, mothers come in all different shapes and sizes. From our biological mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers. To adoptive mothers, foster mothers, and God-mothers. And even aunts, friends, neighbours, mentors and the women who choose to take on these roles in our lives. We bring all of these women before you, and thank you for all that they do, and all that they bring to our lives. Amen

