

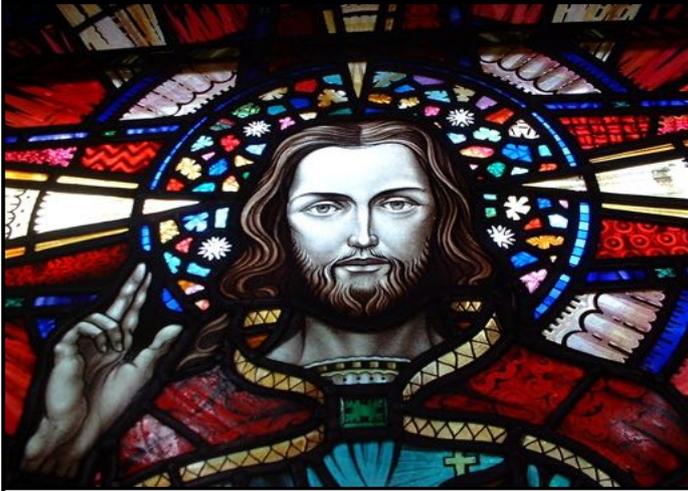


# newsletter



31 December 2016 and 1 January 2017

Mary, Holy Mother of God



## Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart

### Our Mission

Through the power of the Holy Spirit we will be a parish renewed in our knowledge and understanding of the love of Jesus Christ, to enable each of us to fulfil our Christian mission

Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP

[www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)

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## 1 January – Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: 'Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?' (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.



Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that 'God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law' (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that 'God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out "Abba, Father!"' helps us realise that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Some theologians also insist that Mary's motherhood of Jesus is an important element in God's creative plan. God's 'first' thought in creating was Jesus. Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the one who could give God perfect love and worship on behalf of all creation. As Jesus was 'first' in God's mind, Mary was 'second' insofar as she was chosen from all eternity to be his mother.

The precise title 'Mother of God' goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form *Theotokos* (God-bearer), it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin *Theotokos*. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: 'Praised be the *Theotokos*!' The tradition reaches to our own day. In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* calls Mary 'Mother of God' twelve times.

Adapted from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org>

### 3 JANUARY – FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

In a world of fiercely guarded corporate names and logos, it should be easy to understand this feast. The letters IHS are an abbreviation of Iesous, the Greek name for Jesus.



The Feast of the Holy Name (traditionally celebrated as the Feast of the Circumcision) is a major feast of the Church. It reflects the significance of the Holy Name, Jesus. The name Jesus is from the Hebrew Joshua or Yehoshuah meaning 'Yahweh is salvation' or 'Yahweh will save'.

Although St Paul might claim credit for promoting devotion to the Holy Name because Paul wrote in Philippians that God the Father gave Christ Jesus 'that name that is above every name' (see 2:9), this devotion became popular because of twelfth century Cistercian monks and nuns but especially through the preaching of St Bernardino of Siena, a fifteenth century Franciscan.

Bernardino used devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as a way of overcoming bitter and often bloody class struggles and family rivalries or vendettas in Italian city-states. The devotion grew, partly because of Franciscan and Dominican preachers. It spread even more widely after the Jesuits began promoting it in the sixteenth century.

In 1530, Pope Clement V approved an Office of the Holy Name for the Franciscans. In 1721, Pope Innocent XIII extended this feast to the entire Church.

This feast invites us to a continual remembrance and veneration of the Holy Name in order that God might plant in us, and in every heart, the love of him who is the Saviour of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Adapted from <http://www.ucatholic.com>

**Twelfth Night** is a holiday on 5 January that marks the 12<sup>th</sup> and final night of the Christmas season. Twelfth Night is the eve before the twelfth day of Christmas, or the Epiphany celebration, which commemorates the adoration of the Magi before the infant Jesus.



In Tudor England, Twelfth Night marked the end of a winter festival that started on All Hallows' Eve, which we now celebrate as Halloween. A King or Lord of Misrule would be appointed to run the Christmas festivities, and Twelfth Night was the end of his period of rule. The theme was that the normal order of things was reversed. This Lord of Misrule tradition can be traced to pre-Christian European festivals such as the Celtic festival of Samhain and the Ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia.

After Twelfth Night the carnival season starts, which lasts through Mardi Gras. In some places such as New Orleans, Louisiana, the night of 6 January with the first carnival celebrations is called Twelfth Night.

Adapted from <http://www.religionfacts.com>

### 2 January – Feast of St Basil the Great (330-379)

Basil was born in 330 at Caesarea in Cappadocia, of a Christian family. A brilliant scholar and a virtuous man, he started by becoming a hermit but was made bishop of Caesarea in 370. He fought against the Arians and wrote many notable works, in particular the monastic rule that bears his name and which many monks in the East follow to this day. He was also generous to the poor. He died on 1 January 379.



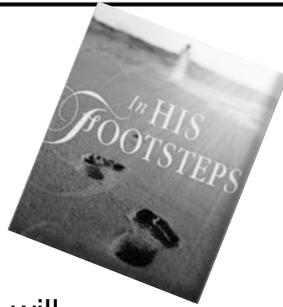
Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

# ANNUAL QUIET DAY

**Saturday 28 January**  
**11.30 am to 3.30 pm**

*In the Footsteps of Jesus*  
*A Journey through the Holy Land*

Pop in for as little as an hour throughout the day. Tea and coffee with conversation will be on tap all day. There will be six spaces for quiet prayer and reflection.



## CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **4 January** 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm.

Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654 for information.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **9**

**January** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For more information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



## BURNS' NIGHT

**THURSDAY 26 JANUARY**  
**AT 7.30 PM**

This year we are holding a Burns Supper to raise funds for the St Francis Suite!

Come and join us to celebrate Scotland's favourite poet, Robert Burns.



## MOTHERS' PRAYERS

will resume in the New Year. Please contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186 for information.



## BOOK CLUB

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 9 MARCH AT 7.30 PM**

In the Home of Ros Penn

New Members made very welcome and we will chat about this book, *The Fisherman: A Novel* by Larry Huntspurger.

Few New Testament characters are as fascinating as Simon Barjona, the man called Peter, a reluctant disciple who changed the face of Christianity. For more than twenty-five years, author and pastor Larry Huntspurger has spent hundreds of hours studying New Testament documents in preparation for writing this fictional first-person account of the life of this enigmatic disciple. The result is a novel that faithfully follows scripture while offering a powerful, fresh narration of the story of one of Christianity's greatest men. In the fast-paced chapters of *The Fisherman*, readers will relive Peter's initial resistance to the pull he feels toward Jesus and his ministry.



Please note there will be no teas after Mass on New Year's Day.



# MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday 14 January**  
**9.30 am to 11.00 am**

Join us for our regular men's breakfast event. Bacon sandwiches, conversation, friendship and an opportunity to see Deacon Philip's Camino presentation. (Suggested donation only £1.)

Wishing you all every blessing for 2017

## Circle of Prayer for January – Christian Unity

Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who bear your name and seek to serve you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love one another in humility. May we who have been reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under one Shepherd. Amen.



## INFORMATION

### CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and NEXT Wednesday at 7.00 pm.

### PRAYER LINE

Please ring for intercessory prayer on 01525 634 186. We have some wonderful answers to prayers. Be assured of full confidentiality.

### CARDS, GIFTS, etc.

Are available for sale in Sacred Heart church after Mass. All are priced. Please put money in the repository box at the back of the church.

### SAFEGUARDING

For information contact Paula Bates on 07834 715 978 or [safeguarding@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)

### CHURCH NEWSLETTER ONLINE

at <http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk>

### IN HOSPITAL, SICK OR HOUSE-BOUND?

Please let us know of anyone who needs a visit or requires Holy Communion at home.

### THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP

meets every Monday at 7.30 pm. If you would to join us or would like more details or if you know of anyone who needs a visit, help with transport or any other need, contact John Flanagan on 01525 406 810.

### LITTLE 'UNS

Meet every Friday 10.15 am to 11.45 am in term time, in the church hall. This is a group for babies and pre-schoolers. For further information please contact Deacon Philip on [deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk).

### MASS INTENTIONS

For Mass intentions contact Deacon Philip who will arrange for Canon Bennie or another local priest to say a Mass.

## Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Saturday	31 December	6.00 pm	Martin Nolan, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday	1 January	11.00 am	Intentions of the Pilgrims
Monday	2 January	9.30 am	Philip Doyle, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	3 January		No Service
Wednesday	4 January	11.00 am	Funeral Service for David Harris
Wednesday	4 January	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	5 January		No Service
Friday	6 January	9.30 am	Intentions of John Flanagan

**Newsletter copy deadline** – Tuesday midday. Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates; 01525 840 661; [suz\\_yates@btinternet.com](mailto:suz_yates@btinternet.com)

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 31 December and 1 January		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Victoria Basterfield
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Noreen Weighell	Bernadette Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Chris Till	Hilary Brennan
Driver		Kate Mansford
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 7 and 8 January		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Pat Crowe	Una McAlinden
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Dee Brady	Kate Mansford
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Peter Hyde	Deacon Peter Hyde
Eucharistic Minister	Pat King	Anne Gadsden
Driver		William Doyle