

newsletter



1 and 2 April 2017

5th Sunday of Lent – Year A



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



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An Invitation

You are invited to join us in the most important and special week of
the Church's year here

at Sacred Heart church starting next

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 April with the **Blessing of Palms**.

This will be followed by the **Maundy Thursday Mass**
on 13 April at 8.00 pm

Then on Friday 14 April we have the **Good Friday Service**
at 3.00 pm followed by the **Stations of the Cross** at 7.30 pm

On Saturday we have the **Easter Vigil** at 9.00 pm as the highlight of
this wonderful Holy Week.

On Sunday the **Mass** at 11.00 am is the culmination of Holy Week.

RSVP not necessary, just come to all or some of these celebrations.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN AMPHILL AND FLITWICK (CTA&F)

As part of our Lenten programme, each of the six churches part of CTA&F organised prayer spaces on six Saturdays in Lent, based on themes from people Jesus encountered 'on the way' to the cross. Next Saturday **8 April**, it will be at St Andrew's from 10.00 am till midday.

OUR LENTEN CONVERSATION – 'OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS' ABOUT SESSION 4 – COMMUNION AND MISSION

Each week we are extending the Lenten conversation 'Our Participation in the Mass' to everyone in the parish through this short summary of the session, with questions to ponder in the week ahead in order that everyone can grow in their appreciation of the jewel of the church – the Mass. Why not join us on Tuesday!



As the prayer of thanksgiving comes to a close, our posture makes a dramatic change. We stand, often stretching and flexing, entering into the time when we become forged together into a physical body that reflects the spiritual union of which we were active witnesses in the Eucharistic Prayer.

This physicality is made real through words once more, in the prayer that Jesus gave us – the Lord's Prayer. The Our Father expresses adoration, faith and a request for God's graces to always flow over and through us. This prayer reflects the need we have for God's mercy and the commandment to love one another. This sense of unity is then made tangible through the sharing of the peace with each other. This is an intense moment that prepares us for our deeper sharing of Jesus.

When we are old enough, we join in the formal procession that leads us to the foot of the altar – which is the foot of the Cross of Jesus – in order to become one with Jesus. This is the meaning of communion. We do not take something, we give ourselves in order to be united into Jesus.

This unity means that we all have been empowered, including those who are present but did not receive communion. The power we receive is the power to act, to fulfil the mission that Jesus gave us in the story of the last supper in John's Gospel. In this picture we see Jesus as the servant, and that is the call we are given, and the instruction we are given at the end of the Mass, as the deacon tells us to go out into the world.

Here are some questions to ponder this week.

- *What does the 'breaking of the bread' reveal about Jesus Christ?*
- *In what ways do we express unity with Jesus Christ and with each other in the communion?*
- *How do I feel about the personal gift of Jesus and his power in my life?*
- *What enables me to feel ready to act in the world around me as a result of participating in Mass?*

Tea and coffee will be available after 11.00 am Mass. All welcome

RCIA

Today Sunday, our catechumen, Sharon, will receive the Lord's Prayer in preparation for her baptism to be received into the church at Easter. Please remember her in your prayers.

LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION MONDAY 10 APRIL AT 7.30 PM

In the season of Lent we are called to come to reconciliation with God, in preparation for Easter. This annual Lenten service provides the opportunity to participate in a liturgy of reconciliation and then to attend the sacrament of penance.



Churches Together in Flitwick and Amphill

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Friday 14 April at 10.00 am

Join us to follow the Cross through Amphill.

Starting at St Andrew's Church at 10.00 am. Walking to Amphill Market Square and finishing at Amphill Baptist Church at about 11.00 am.



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The parish is holding exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on **5 April** from 2.00 pm to 9.00 pm. It will provide an opportunity for quiet, reflective time with Our Blessed Lord.

This is a time for you to be in prayer in the presence of God.

The evening will end with Benediction at 8.45 pm.



Well done, RED MISSIO BOX HOLDERS

Last year we sent an amazing £2,666.03 to the missions.

This also includes those who contribute through direct debit. Thank you, Pat King

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 24 and 25 March the total was £415.61; this is £134.39 less than budgeted to meet the parish running costs. With thanks, Finance Committee.

What Happens in Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

The liturgy of Holy Thursday is not merely a prelude to the events of Jesus' Passion and death. It celebrates the heart of the mystery that is revealed in all of our sacraments and in our service to others.



This Mass includes the celebration of the institution of the Eucharist and of the service of our priests. It reveals Jesus as the servant in the example of the washing of the feet. It is this service that shows us what being a disciple is all about.

Watching And Waiting

At the close of the Maundy Mass the altar is stripped and the Blessed Sacrament removed from the tabernacle to signify Jesus' arrest and isolation. For a few hours we gather to watch and wait as the disciples did in the garden.

Good Friday

This day we celebrate Jesus' Passion, the death he suffered on the Cross for our sake. It is 'Good' Friday precisely because of the victory over death which Jesus won by emptying himself. It is a ceremonial that represents and reflects on 'love' as much as it does on 'loss'. This moving and thought-provoking service shows us the cost of discipleship – how we too must empty ourselves to be truly followers of Christ.



Easter Vigil

The ceremony on Holy Saturday is much more than a Mass – it is **the Eucharist!** For in this evening service the whole depth of the victory won by Christ in being raised from the dead is starkly represented by the darkened church being pierced by the light of a single Paschal candle. This is the light of Christ breaking into our lives anew. It is spectacular! It reminds us that this event is what we celebrate at every Mass, every Sunday and on every weekday.

The profound and meaning-filled liturgy is a living reminder that for all of us our baptism reflects the action of being reborn into the new life of Resurrection – to be adopted by this action as sons and daughters of God, redeemed through Christ's sacrifice and RISING!

Easter Sunday continues the story of the Resurrection and marks the start of the whole week of Easter, when every day for eight days it remains the one, single day of Easter...a time when we are reminded about the gravity of the Resurrection in our lives.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR APRIL – DIGNITY OF HUMAN WORK

Dear God, thank you for providing us with the gift to share our talents. Provide our community, our nation, our world the fortitude to provide work for all which is decent and fair. Make us faithful stewards of your creation to enhance the human dignity of our global family.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **5 April** 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **24 April** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet on **3 April**. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Meetings are at 80 George St, Maulden. Contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.

AN INVITATION TO THE CHRISM MASS THURSDAY 13 APRIL

This year we are organising a trip to attend the annual service when Bishop Peter blesses the sacred oils used in Baptism, Confirmation and Healing throughout the coming year. The Mass begins at 11.00 am – we need to leave Flitwick at 9.15 am to ensure a good seat! The diocese provides a buffet lunch following the Mass. We will get back to Flitwick around 3.00 pm. Please complete a reply slip or speak directly to Deacon Philip, to enable us to arrange pooled transport, deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk or phone 07711 953 926.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK IN OUR LENTEN PROGRAMME?

- **Monday 3 April** – SVP to led Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm
- **Tuesday 4 April** – Session 5 'Our Participation in the Mass' at 7.45 pm
- **Wednesday 5 April** – Exposition from 2.00 pm
- **Saturday 8 April** – Churches Together Prayer Space, at St Andrew's, 10.00 am till 12.00 noon

There is an opportunity for **prayer ministry** straight after both Masses this weekend. Please come forward to bring to the Lord your needs, and the team will pray with you – this is always confidential.

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

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 like to join us or want 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.

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	1 April	6.00 pm	Frank McConnachie, Anniversary, RIP
Sunday	2 April	11.00 am	Special Intentions of Mrs Flitton
Monday	3 April	9.30 am	People of The Parish
Tuesday	4 April		No Service
Wednesday	5 April	2.00 pm	Exposition and Adoration followed by Benediction at 8.45 pm
Thursday	6 April		No Service
Friday	7 April	9.30 am	Gladys Johnson, Recently Deceased, RIP

Newsletter copy deadline – Tuesday midday. Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates; 01525 840 661; suz_yates@btinternet.com

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 1 and 2 April

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Judith Latham	Victoria Basterfield
2 nd Reading	Alison Braniff	Bernadette Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	C./M. Rincon	Catherine Davies
Driver		David Toland

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 8 and 9 April

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Suzanne Yates	Una McAlinden
2 nd Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Kate Mansford
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Peter Hyde	Deacon Peter Hyde
Eucharistic Minister	Jane Crow	Clare Bevan
Driver		C./J. Gallagher