



newsletter



3 and 4 September 2016

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C



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

Telephone: 01525 715 109 (checked every day), 07711 953 926

Canon Bennie Noonan, Parish Priest frbennie@btinternet.com, 01462 813 436

Deacon Philip, Pastoral Administrator deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926

Suzanne Yates, Parish Secretary secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



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The Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is often called 'The door of the Church', because it is the first of the seven sacraments and the reception of the other sacraments depends on it. It is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation, the other two being the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Once baptised, a person becomes a member of the Church.



Christ himself ordered his disciples to preach the Gospel to all nations and to baptise those who accept the message of the Gospel. For Catholics, the sacrament is not a mere formality; it is the very mark of a Christian, because it brings us into new life in Christ. And because it is so important, it is necessary for parents to understand what they are asking for their child therefore we have regular courses run by Catherine Davies.

Baptism has six primary effects, which are all supernatural graces:

1. The removal of the guilt of both Original Sin and personal sin.
2. The remission of all punishment that we owe because of sin, both temporal and eternal.
3. The infusion of grace in the form of sanctifying grace.
4. Becoming a part of Christ.
5. Becoming a part of the Church, which is the Mystical Body of Christ on earth.
6. Enabling participation in the sacraments, the priesthood of all believers, and the growth in grace.

The core of the baptism rite is: the pouring of water over the head of the person to be baptised and saying the words 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'. This is concluded with the anointing with the Holy Chrism.

Adapted from <http://catholicism.about.com>

8 September – Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary

If you are quick with math, you've probably already figured out that 8 September is exactly nine months after 8 December, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.



Christians normally celebrate the day on which saints died, because that is when they entered into eternal life. And indeed, Catholics celebrate the end of Mary's life in the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But we also celebrate three birthdays and Mary's is one of them. The other two are the births of Christ and St John the Baptist, and the common thread tying these feasts together is that all three, Mary, Jesus, and St John, were born without Original Sin.

In earlier centuries, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated with greater fanfare; today, however, most Catholics probably do not even realise that the Church has a special feast day set aside to celebrate it. But, like the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is an important date in our salvation history. Christ needed a mother, and Mary's conception and birth, therefore, are events without which Christ's own birth would have been impossible.

It's no surprise, then, that the Christians of the second century AD recorded the details of Mary's birth in such documents as the Protoevangelium of James and the Gospel of the Nativity of Mary. While neither document bears the authority of Scripture, they provide us with everything that we know about the life of Mary before the Annunciation, including the names of Mary's parents, St Joachim and St Anna. It is a good example of tradition, which complements (while never contradicting) scripture.

Adapted from <http://catholicism.about.com>

BOOK CLUB NEXT MEETING

Thursday 27 October 2016 at 7:30
at the home of Ros Penn

Contact: rospenn@gmail.com or Deacon Philip. New members are made very welcome and we will chat about this book. The next book we have for you to read is *Shadows* by Fr. Jimmy Collins.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Macmillan Coffee Morning at Sacred Heart church, Friday **30 September** immediately after 9.30 am Mass.

PLEASE COME ALONG

If you would like to donate a raffle prize or volunteer to bake a cake, please contact Anne Gadsden on 07432 595 057.

Raffle tickets will be on sale after all Masses on **24 and 25 September**, for those unable to attend on the day to contribute to this good cause.



We welcome Lois, daughter of Nicola and Anthony Lee, who will be baptised into the Catholic community today.

We ask the parish to pray for her and her family on this special day, and wish her and her family all God's blessings on their journey of faith.



PARISH RETREAT AT BUCKDEN TOWERS

24 SEPTEMBER 2016 – 9:30, closing with Mass
EXPLORING FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

This year's retreat is inspired by the forthcoming pilgrimage to Assisi.

FREE personal copy of *Glimpses of the Franciscan Way* by Mark Davis and Francis Cotter to help guide our day.

BOOK NOW to avoid disappointment, numbers are limited. Tickets £12.00



We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 27 and 28 August the total was £489.50; the second collection for Peter's Pence was £254.93. With thanks, Finance Committee.

Don't forget the £1 in the bottle!

Kate Mansford would like to thank all the catering helpers who came forward to help with our latest celebrations. Many hands DID make light work!

SVP ANNUAL APPEAL 2016

Most of you are aware of the work of the SVP in the parish, visiting those who may be lonely, and ready to help those in need. You are always amazingly generous to us and we want to thank you for all your support. This year's appeal will be on the weekend of **17 and 18 September**. A member of the parish SVP group will speak at both Masses and there will be retiring collections.



On the weekend of the appeal, we will also present our annual report and the week before that we will offer each family a set of postcards reflecting the work of the SVP.

If you are able, and want to Gift Aid your donations, we will have pens and envelopes available.

Thank you in advance for all your support in both prayer and giving.

SUMMER BARBEQUE AND FAMILY DAY

We are holding a late-summer barbeque and family day on Sunday **11 September** after 11.00 am Mass. Tickets are £5.00 per person and £12.00 per family, and available after all Masses.



CANON BENNIE'S HOLIDAY

Canon Bennie is on his annual holidays for the next three weeks. We are very fortunate to have Fr. Jay saying our Masses. Please see newsletter for weekday Mass times.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS

The next baptism preparation classes will be held on Saturdays **10 and 17 September**, starting at 10.00 am for one hour in the St Francis Suite.

The parish encourages all new parents asking for baptism of their child, to attend. We also welcome parents who may wish to renew their preparation for baptism as their families grow larger. Asking for baptism for your child is the start of your child's sacramental journey in the Church. The sessions look at your role in the development of your child's faith, what you ask of the Church and the promises you make on behalf of your child. We look forward to seeing you and your family. Godparents and grandparents are welcome to join us.



Circle of Prayer for September – Students, Teachers and Educators

Lord, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. You sent us your Son to teach us that true wisdom comes from you alone. Send your Spirit upon students, teachers and educators and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learnt.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **7 September** 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 **12 September** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For more information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



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

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

has switched to Monday evenings at 7.30 pm. We are beginning our 15th year of praying for our children and our families and thank God for so many answers to prayer over the years.

New members are very welcome to join us as we begin a new year of fortnightly meetings. Our next meeting is on **12 September**. Please ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for information.



This week you will notice in the newsletter that we have three references to Baptism. This year we will have at least **twenty-six** children baptised and this cannot happen without support for our priest and deacon. This support comes from Catherine Davies who organises and runs our courses and makes sure children are ready to receive this sacrament and parents and godparents understand what is being asked of them. So thank you Catherine for all the work you do in this. (Ed.)

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 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 Tom Cahill 07931 700 646.

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	3 September	6.00 pm	Patrick Harte, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday	4 September	11.00 am	Thanksgiving Mass for Diamond Wedding of Sheila and Peter Whiteley
Monday	5 September	9.30 am	Pat Petersen, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	6 September		No Service
Wednesday	7 September	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	8 September		No Service
Friday	9 September	9.30 am	Pat Petersen, 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, 3 and 4 September		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 pm
1 st Reading	Adrian Hamilton	Pat Rees
2 nd Reading	Noelette Hanley	Ann Leatherland
Eucharistic Minister	Jane Crow	Grace McKenna
Eucharistic Minister	C./M. Rincon	Martin Stynes
Driver		David Toland
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 10 and 11 September		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 pm
1 st Reader	Dee Brady	Una McAlinden
2 nd Reader	Judith Latham	Kate Mansford
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Peter Hyde
Eucharistic Minister	John Flanagan	Clare Bevan
Driver		C./J. Gallagher