

# newsletter



4 and 5 February 2017

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – 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



Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP

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

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

**Canon Bennie Noonan**, Parish Priest      [frbennie@btinternet.com](mailto:frbennie@btinternet.com), 01462 813 436

**Deacon Philip**, Pastoral Administrator      [deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk), 07711 953 926

**Suzanne Yates**, Parish Secretary      [secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)



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## 11 February – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Located in the Pyrenees Mountains region of France, Lourdes is the home of one of the most important shrines in the Catholic faith: the Grotto of Massabielle.

Approximately five million pilgrims, of whom a great number are sick or handicapped, come to Lourdes each year. It may be through curiosity, through a desire for a physical cure, in a movement towards belief, or to be of service to those who suffer, that they come to drink the water from the holy spring.

This region of France was a strategic stronghold during medieval times. Situated at the foot of the Pyrenees, the medieval castle of Lourdes provided protection against foreign forces. During the Hundred Years War, the French captured this region from the English in 1406 after an eighteen-month siege. The medieval castle was used as a state prison from the reign of Louis XIV (1643-1715) until the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was in 1858 when Lourdes' importance as a military and state stronghold ended and its spiritual importance began.



Between 11 February and 26 July 1858, Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl, experienced eighteen apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the nearby Massabielle grotto. During the ninth vision, an underground spring with healing powers was revealed. The Holy See recognises sixty-seven miracles attributable to the water that flows from it.

During the eighteen apparitions the Virgin Mary spoke to Bernadette suggesting that we come to Lourdes. The response of millions of us to that invitation is made in Lourdes each year, a world centre of pilgrimage and a special place of meeting between God and people.

<http://ilourdes.com/History.htm>

## 10 February – Feast of St Scholastica (480-543)

St Scholastica was the twin sister of St Benedict, the founder of the Benedictine Order. Benedict and Scholastica were born of wealthy parents in fifth-century Italy. They were raised together until Benedict left for Rome to continue his studies.

Scholastica was dedicated to God at an early age, though for a time she probably continued to stay with her parents. Some years later, she left home and founded a religious order for women near Monte Cassino in central Italy, where Benedict had established his famous monastery. The twins used to visit each other once a year. Since Scholastica, as a woman, was not allowed inside the monastery, their meetings occurred in a nearby farmhouse where Benedict and his sister spent hours discussing spiritual matters. In the last of these meetings, Scholastica implored her brother to stay the entire night with her, so that they could continue talking until morning about the joys of heaven.



Benedict refused, since that would mean he and the monks accompanying him would have to break his rule about not spending a night outside the monastery. Scholastica thereupon prayed, asking God that her brother might remain. In response to her prayer, a severe thunderstorm suddenly broke out, preventing the monks from leaving. Benedict cried out, 'God forgive you, sister! What have you done?' Scholastica answered, 'I asked a favour of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it.' Benedict and Scholastica thus spent the night discussing the nature of heaven, a fitting subject, for Scholastica was soon to experience its joys. Three days after this conversation, Benedict was at prayer in his monastery when he saw the soul of his sister ascending to heaven in the form of a dove. Benedict then announced her death to his monks, and later buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

Adapted from <http://catholicexchange.com/st-scholastica>

### 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 Huntsperger.



### SAVE THE DATE!

As the world celebrates love on St Valentine's Day come and celebrate

God's love for us on Sunday  
**12 February.**

Enjoy a family Sunday lunch in the Canon Denis room after 11.00 am Mass.

Tickets £5.00 per family, available after Mass this weekend.

Due to limited space it will be first come, first served.



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.

'Before they finish praying to me I will answer their prayers' Isaiah 65:24.

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 28 and 29 January the total was £505.58; this is £44.42 less than what is needed to meet the parish running costs. With thanks, Finance Committee.

## Children's Prayer Bag Scheme

The 'prayer bag' scheme for the youngest children of our parish has started. This scheme is to help parents give their children an experience of the Bible and prayer in the comfort of their own home.



We are all used to spending time with our children in following up with reading and arithmetic tasks from school. These times provide not only of learning but also a time for conversation with our children, a precious thing in our ever-busy lives.

That too is the aim of our own prayer bags. Each bag features a different Bible character or story; each has a set of wooden figures that can be used to help explore the story. No deep knowledge of the Bible or church teaching is needed; everything is provided for parent and child story-time that will develop your children's understanding of the foundational stories of their faith. Arranged in the chronological order of the Old and New Testament the bags may be used in any sequence.

The parish has invested in the bags to teach people of all ages more about the faith. It is intended to enable parents to fulfil their baptism commitment, to be the 'first and best teachers of the child' in the ways of the faith. The prayer bags are ideally suited for children up to and including Year 1, after which we start our formal sacramental preparation.

If you have young children, please take a bag, and over two weeks explore the story and its activities. We simply ask that you return the bag after two weeks for the benefit of other families.

## DAFFODIL DAY – MONDAY 6 MARCH

This is an annual event supporting the Marie Curie Cancer Care Charity held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster in London from **2.00 pm to 4.00 pm**.

There is uplifting community hymn singing as well as speakers and entertainment.

A coach has been organised at **£13.00** per person.

Local pick-up points are

**Amphill Cottage Bakery** (Dunstable St) **9.15 am** and  
**Flitwick High St** (Bollywood Lounge) **9.30 am**.

Please contact Ann Blair (01525 714 847) or Linda Potts (01525 714 060) by **Friday 17 February** to book a seat.



## CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **15 February** 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm.



Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **13 February** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** will meet on **6 February**. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. This meeting will be at **73 Fallowfield, Amphill**. Contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.



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



## Sacred Heart 100 CLUB

End of year one, you have raised £814 for the parish. Well done and many thanks. Our new year started on **1 February** when subscriptions are due for renewal. Those who paid by standing order should be automatically renewed, and those who paid by cheque or cash should let Peter Leatherland have their subscription.

Full details will be sent to all concerned.

## Circle of Prayer for February – All who are sick and those who care for them

Accept the prayers we offer for our brothers and sisters who are ill, that they may be restored to fullness of health. We pray for doctors, nurses and all who care for the sick and the dying, that they may bring Christ's love and compassion to all whom they care for. Amen



## INFORMATION

### CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and THIS 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 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](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	4 February	6.00 pm	Intentions of Noreen and Dennis Bavister
Sunday	5 February	11.00 am	Private Intentions
Monday	6 February	9.30 am	Gerard McGarrigle, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	7 February		No Service
Wednesday	8 February	7.30 pm	The People of the Parish
Thursday	9 February		No Service
Friday	10 February	9.30 am	Intentions of Mary Adams

**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, 4 and 5 February		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Noreen Weighell	Catherine Davies
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Angela Bartlett	Dennis Horner
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Jane Crow	Martin Stynes
Driver		Kate Mansford
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 11 and 12 February		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Dee Brady	Kate Mansford
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Una McAlinden
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Peter Hyde	Deacon Peter Hyde
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Wilson	Clare Bevan
Driver		William Doyle