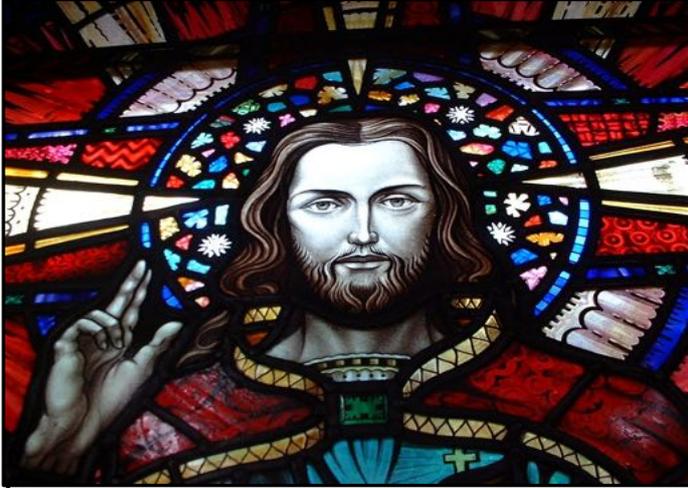


newsletter



4 and 5 March 2017

1st 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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The Distinguishing Marks of Lent – Prayer

Tradition tells us that Lent has three distinguishing marks: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Prayer is the best place to begin, because it is the one that unites them all. Fasting and almsgiving are themselves just forms of prayer.

There are two classic definitions of prayer. The one in most catechisms comes from St John of Damascus (eighth century): 'Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God.' The other comes from St Clement of Alexandria (third century), who defined prayer as 'conversation with God'.

In prayer we talk to God, and he talks to us. As in any relationship, this conversation takes many forms. Think of all the ways a husband and wife communicate: formal marriage vows, casual chat, winks across a crowded room, affectionate caresses, and phrases they never tire of repeating.

Our communication with God includes a similar range of expressions, set phrases, quiet conversation, gestures such as the Sign of the Cross, and the intimate embrace of the sacraments. Just as a man and woman grow in love by repeating 'I love you', so we Christians grow in love by repeating the Church's prayers.

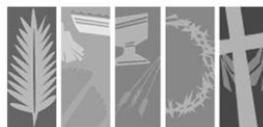
Prayer comes in many forms and styles, usually divided into 'vocal' and 'mental' prayer. The categories are helpful, but not watertight. All prayer, after all, should involve our mind; so, in a sense, all prayer is mental prayer. Modern writers sometimes speak of the two types as formal prayer and spontaneous prayer. Again, such distinctions are useful; we should, however, step beyond them for a moment. When we look at all prayer as conversation, it can change the way we go about it. Thinking of prayer as conversation can help us also to overcome obstacles, such as distractions, inability to focus, because all these things also come up in human conversation.



Adapted from <http://www.catholiceducation.org>

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN AMPHILL AND FLITWICK (CTA&F)

As part of our Lenten programme each of the six churches that are part of CTA&F is organising a prayer spaces on six Saturdays in Lent based on themes from people Jesus encountered on the way to the cross. Next Saturday **11 March** it will be here at Sacred Heart from 10.00 am till midday.



Below are the other churches, their dates and themes.

Date	Church	Theme
11 March	Sacred Heart	The large crowds following Jesus
18 March	Amphill Baptist	Ten lepers
25 March	Sts Peter and Paul's Flitwick	A blind man receive sight
1 April	Amphill Methodist	Zacchaeus
8 April	St Andrew's Amphill	Jerusalem: The entry and the crowds

You are welcome to attend all or some of these open churches.

RCIA – 5 March

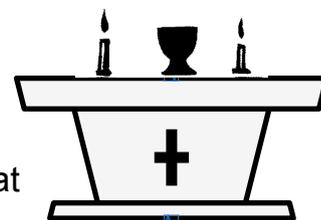
Today, Sunday, our catechumen, Sharon and her sponsor and people from the parish will attend the Rite of Election at the cathedral in Northampton with Bishop Peter in preparation to be received into the church at Easter.

Please remember her in your prayers.

OUR LENTEN CONVERSATION 'OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS' ABOUT SESSION 1 – THE HISTORY OF THE MASS AND THE SETTING FOR MASS

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. There are 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 in person on Tuesday!

Jesus instituted the Eucharist, the core of the Mass, in the celebration of the Last Supper. Over the centuries the Mass and its Missal have evolved out of many traditions of the celebration of the Eucharist to give us the sacrament we experience today. Our weekly gathering is rightly called the 'source and summit' of our faith.



As we look towards the sanctuary, the sacred space where the Mass is celebrated, we see two 'tables'. One is obviously a table, the altar at which the priest and deacon serve; the other is the lectern, the 'table'

from which Word is announced by the readers, the deacon and the priest. Here, just as the priest will break the bread on the altar, the preacher 'breaks the Word' to enable us to relate the scriptures to our daily life.



These two tables enable us to recognise our role in participating in the Mass. This is made up of gathering, listening, responding and then going forth, better able to engage with the world as Christians, which means co-workers with Jesus Christ. Participation is not just active – like having a role like a server, collector, welcome or minister – it is also relies on us being aware of the Mass. Its stages and our opportunity to be alive to the way we can respond to each step in the 'dance' that is the Mass.

Here are some questions to ponder this week.

- † *Remember a celebration of the Mass when you felt fully engaged; what was different for you that day?*
- † *In what ways or stages am I really taking part in the Mass?*
- † *What do I expect of the Mass?*

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY IS FRIDAY 10 MARCH



There will be an appeal on behalf of CAFOD at all Masses this weekend. Collection envelopes and prayer cards will be distributed. The envelopes will be collected at Masses on 11 and 12 March.

Florence is a hard-working mother who is devoted to her family. A few years ago, she was only just making enough to feed her family. However, CAFOD's partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, recognised how determined Florence was to stand on her own two feet. They gave her 500 tiny fish, tools and the training to build a pond and farm-fish. By selling some of the fish at market, Florence was able to give her children a future – she was able to send them to school.



Please support this Lent Fast Day, to ensure more people like Florence can turn tiny fish into something amazing.

SVP Lenten Lunch

On Tuesday 14 March the SVP will again be serving a simple Lenten Lunch of soup and bread. The UN has just declared a famine in South Sudan where 100,000 people are facing starvation and 4.9 million people are in urgent need of food. Please come along between 12 noon and 1.30 pm to enjoy homemade soup and help the helpless. All donations will go to the SVP in Sudan and South Sudan where they are not only feeding the hungry but teaching and training the next generation.



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

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK IN OUR LENTEN PROGRAMME?

- **Tuesday 7 March** – Session 1 'Our Participation in the Mass' at 7.45 pm
- **Wednesday 8 March** – Stations of the Cross led by Charismatic Prayer group
- **Thursday 9 March** – Book Club – *The Fisherman: A Novel* by Larry Huntsperger, at Ros Penn's home.
- **Friday 10 March** – CAFOD Fast Day
- **Saturday 11 March** – Churches Together Prayer Space, here at Sacred Heart 10.00 am till 12.00 noon

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 25 and 26 February the total was £572.83; this is £22.83 more than what is budgeted to meet the parish running costs. With thanks, Finance Committee.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **15 March**, 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **13 March** from 2.30 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet

on **6 March**. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Meetings are at 80 George St, Maulden. Contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.



RED MISSION BOX HOLDERS

Pat King will be collecting the contents of these boxes before Mass this weekend (4/5 March) and next weekend (11/12 March). You should have received your brown envelopes and instructions. If not please call 01525 402 598.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

We are holding the Stations of the Cross during Lent this year. Each celebration will be led by a different parish group.

The dates for the services are:

- † **Wednesday 8 March** after Mass led by the Charismatic Prayer
- † **Monday 13 March** at 2.00 pm led by the Sewing Group
- † **Monday 20 March** at 7.30 pm led Mothers' Prayers
- † **Thursday 30 March** at 7.30 pm led by Parish Pastoral Council
- † **Monday 3 April** at 7.30 pm led by SVP

Please put these dates in your diaries and make the Stations part of your Lenten preparations.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR MARCH – CAFOD AND ITS WORK FOR JUSTICE

Fill the hearts of mankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. May there be an end to division, strife and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace.



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

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	4 March	6.00 pm	Deceased members of the Kerrigan family, RIP
Sunday	5 March	11.00 am	Private Intentions
Monday	6 March	9.30 am	Intentions of Ros Penn
Tuesday	7 March		No Service
Wednesday	8 March	7.30 pm	Betty Mahony, Recently Deceased, RIP
Thursday	9 March		No Service
Friday	10 March	9.30 am	Joseph Toland, Anniversary, 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, 4 and 5 March

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Noelette Hanley	Martin Brennan
2 nd Reading	Michael Burgess	Martin Brennan
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Burgess	Hilary Brennan
Driver		Louis Chadwick

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 11 and 12 March

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Noreen Weighell	Pauline Chambers
2 nd Reading	Judith Latham	Ann Leatherland
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Peter Hyde	Deacon Peter Hyde
Eucharistic Minister	Pat King	Catherine Davies
Driver		Kate Mansford