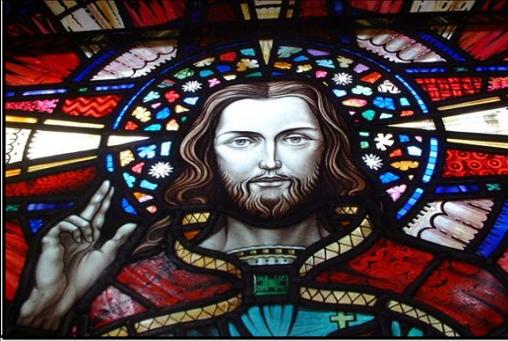




7 January 2018

Epiphany of the Lord



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



 Follow us on Facebook

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Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 31 December the total was £364.75. With thanks, Finance Committee.

The Feast of the Epiphany

Today's gospel is taken from Matthew and his narratives about the infancy of Jesus are to be studied in light of the two readings before it.

The birth of Jesus is such a momentous occasion that even non-Jews are intent on paying homage. The Gentiles are symbolised by the Magi (wise men) from the East.

That the newborn child is to be king is not in any doubt: 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' Bethlehem is designated as the birth-place of the Messiah, as the quotation from the prophet Micah indicates.

The wise men go to Bethlehem, find Jesus and pay him homage, presenting their gifts. The gold represents kingship, frankincense, holiness; these are related to the prophesy of Isaiah. The myrrh represents the moment of Jesus's death and is the first hint that the joy of this new birth is tempered by the shadow of the death that will be the outcome of his messiahship.

So, on this feast of Epiphany, Jesus is shown to be the Christ for all nations. All may share in the salvation that is offered by the newborn king.

Taken from *The Word of God, Year B Luke's Gospel* by Robin Cooper



Blessing Your Home

There is an ancient tradition of blessing Christian homes at Epiphany, asking God's blessing on all who live in the home in the coming year.

We mark above the door in chalk

20+C+M+B+18. This includes the year (2018) and the initials of the names given to the three wise people who brought gifts to

Jesus in his first home: **C** for Caspar, **M** for Melchior, **B** for Balthasar. If you cannot write above your door you might also display this sheet somewhere in your home.



The three initials, C-M-B, also stand for the three words of a Latin prayer

Christus Mansionem Benedicat

May Christ bless this home

Please take a sheet home with all the prayers and remember to bless your home for 2018.

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for		
Mass	This Sunday, 7 January	Next Sunday, 14 January
1 st Reading	Emma Burgess	Noelette Hanley
2 nd Reading	Michael Burgess	Brendan Spillane
Eucharistic	Helen Burgess	Anne Gadsden
Eucharistic	Jane Crow	Clare Bevan
Driver	Louis Chadwick	Ros Penn

There is an opportunity for **prayer ministry** straight after Mass **this weekend**.

Please come forward to bring to the Lord your needs, and the team will pray with you, which is always confidential.

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

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	7 January	9.00 am	Donna Spillane, Anniversary, RIP Sue Barley, Birthday Commemoration
Tuesday	9 January	9.30 am	Pat O'Grady, Recently Deceased, RIP
Wednesday	10 January	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion with Exposition
Friday	12 January	10.00 am 1.00 pm	James Dunn, Recently Deceased, RIP Funeral Service for Margaret Smetham

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.

ANNUAL QUIET DAY

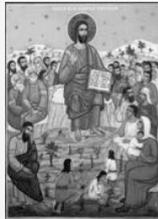
Saturday 27 January
11.00 1m till 3.00 pm

As you know Bishop Peter has declared a year of prayer and vocation our diocese and we shall have an event each month to highlight this special year. Our annual quiet day is held in January, our first event.

What is a Quiet Day?

A quiet day is a one-day retreat, during which we can enjoy an extended period of prayer and reflection. This day is an opportunity to have a time away from the bustle of everyday life without having to travel too far. It provides an opportunity for us to regain some balance between doing and being. In the familiar setting of our church, you can make this personal time of an hour or more, to recharge your spiritual batteries in the depth of the winter.

A number of 'bases' around the church will guide you through reflections on the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount.



The bases are arranged around the church. You are encouraged to visit the bases in the order that will be set out on the day.

It will be a quiet and reflective time in the church and we hope you enjoy the spaces as a pilgrim during your visit.

BOOK CLUB – Next Meeting Thursday 18 January 2018

at 7.30 pm Ros's home
(Tea/Coffee and Snacks)

The next book we have to read is: **THE GRACE OUTPOURING: BLESSING OTHERS THROUGH PRAYER** by Roy Godwin and Dave Roberts

This book is the story of how the Ffald-y-Brenin retreat centre in rural Wales began. When Roy and Daphne Goodwin became the new directors, Roy was, at first, reluctant and unwilling to embrace this apparent change of vocation. The first sentence in the book is, 'I was desperate'. He cries out to God and within hours there is the first of many knocks on the door, this time by a couple who feel 'compelled' to come up the drive and ask about the centre.



The Baptism of Jesus – 8 January

The Gospel for this feast is taken from Mark 1:7-11

One of the most difficult questions concerning the baptism of Jesus is: Why did he need to be baptised for the forgiveness of sins if he was, as is believed by Christians, sinless?



There have been many attempts to answer this question, from the completely unacceptable that Jesus was, like all people, a sinner or that he was 'play-acting', in an attempt to identify himself with John the Baptist's role as the preparer of the way for the Messiah.

More acceptable is the suggestion that Jesus, by being baptised, was showing great humility in undergoing the act of baptism without any need to do so.

Perhaps the real reason lies in exploring the words spoken by the voice from heaven, 'You are my Son Beloved; my favour rests on you.' These words are a combination of two Old Testament texts. 'You are my Son' comes from Psalm 2:7, a psalm of the king who is regarded as a son by God. As 'Son' of God he has a part to play in the rule of God on earth. Such is the part to be played by the Messiah. '... the Beloved; my favour rests on you' tells of the type of Messiah Jesus was to be. The words are based on the Servant Song found in Isaiah 42.

There is a remarkable similarity between the experience forecast for the Suffering Servant and that of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is the moment God confirms Jesus as Messiah. By our own baptism we are united with Jesus in his role of Messiah. St Paul said that we die with Christ to rise with him. So we are called to share in his work of offering salvation to all people.

Taken from *The Word of God, Year B Mark's Gospel* by Robin Cooper

MARGARET SMETHAM, RIP

Please remember Margaret Smetham in your prayers. Her service of reception in to the church will be on Thursday 11 January at 7.30 pm. Her funeral will be held on Friday 12 January at 1.00 pm. All our sympathy and prayers go to Margaret's family.



Youth Alpha Programme will continue on Saturday 13 January with the question *How can we have faith?*

It starts at 4.30 pm will finish by 6.00 pm.

For more information contact Maggie or Helen on youcat@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



Information

CONFESSION

Confession will be at 8.40 am on Sunday and at 9.45 am on Friday.

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

<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 10.30 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 Fr. John or another local priest to say a Mass.



Tea and coffee will be available after Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday, **15 January** at 7.30 pm at 80 George Street, Maulden. You are very welcome to join us to pray for your family intentions in full confidentiality. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186. We meet fortnightly.



The sewing group will start again after Easter. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will be meet on **17 January**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



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