

# newsletter



8 and 9 April 2017

Palm Sunday – 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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## Palm Sunday

Today we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, as he enters his momentous final week. We hear the first account of his Passion and we begin a time of reflection on the meaning of his Passion, death and resurrection.

Catholics see this as a special time; many will take the time to come to the service on Good Friday to mark the final hours of the Passion, culminating in the death and burial of Jesus.

Yet there is so much more to the week – a week that is the most important time of the year. In this week, Bishop Peter will bless the stocks of Holy Oils that we will bring to the parish for use in the baptisms and confirmations for the year ahead.

We are called to take an active part in the unfolding story of the Last Supper, arrest, trail, crucifixion, death and finally the Resurrection of Christ, the anointed one.

There is no greater week than Holy Week in the Church's year. The Risen Lord invites us all to join in the liturgies of the week so that we can each become renewed and refreshed.



*We welcome back Fr. Jay Aseelan Selvaraj MSFS (Fr. Jay)  
who will be with us over Holy Week.*

*Please check back of newsletter for all the Masses Fr. Jay will be saying for us.*

# HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is a very sacred time of the year, for it is now that we will commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. These are the days leading up to the great Easter feast. The Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial is about to come to an end, but this coming week is extremely important for all Christians. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it.

Historical documents tell us that as early as the fourth century the Church celebrated this great week with a feeling of profound sanctity. It begins with Palm Sunday, which marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The central feature of the service proper to this day, as it was in the earliest times, is the procession of palms. The palms are blessed and are then borne in procession to the church, where an entry is made with ceremony, after which the Mass is celebrated. The other notable and very ancient feature of the present Palm Sunday service is the reading of the Gospel of the Passion by three readers.

Especially important for us is the Easter Triduum. This is the three days just before Easter. On Holy Thursday, we re-enact the Lord's Last Supper, which he shared with his apostles on the night he was betrayed and arrested. This is one of the most beautiful liturgies of the entire liturgical year. At the Mass, the priest will wash the feet of twelve people, just as Jesus did. Also on this night, priests all over the world will renew their sacred vows. This is because, at the Last Supper, Jesus not only instituted the Mass but also the ministry of the priesthood.



On Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord, we have the Veneration of the Cross. A service is held at three o'clock in the afternoon. We go forward and kiss the cross in order to show honour and respect for Christ's sacrifice for our sake. There is no consecration of the Eucharist on this day, and the Communion we receive will be from the night before, which has been reserved in the tabernacle away from the altar.

Holy Saturday is a vigil. We keep watch for the expectant rising of Our Saviour. This was the day he went down into the netherworld in order to bring back up with him into heaven those who had died before his coming. Up to this time, the gates to heaven were closed and no one could go there because of the original sin of Adam. Jesus changed all that. By paying the price for our sins on the cross, he gained for us our eternal salvation, and heaven was opened once more. Also on this night, persons who have spent months of preparation will be received through Baptism and Confirmation into the Catholic Church for the first time. It is a joyous occasion.



Holy Week is a time to clear our schedules of unnecessary activities. Our minds and hearts should be fixed on Jesus and what he did for us. Let us bear the cross so that we may be worthy of wearing the crown he wore.

## SVP Lenten Lunch

The SVP sends its grateful thanks to all who attended the Lenten Lunch to support the people of Sudan, and South Sudan. Thanks also to those who could not come but donated anyway. Between you all over £655.00 was raised. At the coffee morning in the village hall on Friday 17th March over £92.00 was raised and this is added to the total. The SVP in the parish will be rounding up the total to £1,020.00 and all the money will be sent to SVP National Office to help relieve famine in Sudan, and South Sudan. God bless you for your generosity.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

stations  
of the  
cross



We will be saying the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Churches Together in Flitwick and Ampthill

**Good Friday  
Walk of Witness  
Friday 14 April  
at 10.00 am**

Join us to Follow the Cross through Ampthill.

Starting at St Andrew's Church at 10.00 am.  
Walking to Ampthill Market Square and finishing  
at Ampthill Baptist Church at about 11.00 am.  
Walk followed by hot cross buns and tea or coffee.



**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

The next meeting is  
on **19 April** 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 **24 April** from  
2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For  
information contact Clare  
Bevan 01525 403 589.



**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](mailto:deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)  
or phone 07711 953 926.



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



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



*Preparing the Church for Easter.*

This will take place on **Tuesday 11 April** at  
7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.  
**Many hands make light work!**



The collection on Good Friday is for the  
upkeep of the holy places in Palestine.  
The object is to keep intact 'the  
monuments of Our Lord's earthly life'.  
The collection on Easter Sunday is for our  
clergy.



**PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS YOU CAN**

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For  
3 and 4 February the total was £477.40; this is £72.60 less  
than what is needed to meet the parish running costs.  
With thanks, Finance Committee.

**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.

**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.



## 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](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 a local priest to say Mass.

## Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Saturday	8 April	6.00 pm	Dominic Lavin, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday	9 April	11.00 am	Margaret Trodden, Anniversary, RIP
Monday	10 April	9.30 am	Gladys Johnson, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	11 April	9.30 am	Intentions of Marian Millar
Wednesday	12 April	7.30 pm	Intentions of Laura Corrigan
Thursday	13 April	9.00 am	Morning Prayer before leaving for Chrism Mass at cathedral
		8.00 pm	Mass of the Last Supper
Friday	14 April	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
		3.00 pm	Service of the Passion and Death of Jesus
Saturday	15 April	9.30 am	Morning Prayer

**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, 8 and 9 April

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Suzanne Yates (and Narrator)	Una McAlinden (and Narrator)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Maggie Dullaghan (and Other)	Kate Mansford (and Other)
Passion	Fr. Jay	Fr. Jay
Eucharistic Minister	Pat King	Catherine Davies
Eucharistic Minister	Don Perrett	John Flanagan
Driver		C./J. Gallagher

### Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for the Easter Triduum

Mass	Maundy Thursday 8.00	Good Friday 3.00 pm	Easter Vigil 9.00 pm	Easter Sunday 11.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Ann Leatherland	Maggie Dullaghan	Alison Braniff	Brendan Spillane
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Judith Latham	Anne Gadsden	Catherine Davies	Noelette Hanley
3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading		Passion – Una McAlinden	Kate Mansford	
7 <sup>th</sup> Reading		Passion – Anne Gadsden	Maggie Dullaghan	
Epistle		Passion – Fr. Jay	Adrian Hamilton	
Eucharistic	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh	Nicky Paterson
Eucharistic	Hillary Brennan	Chris Till	Clare Bevan	Jane Crow