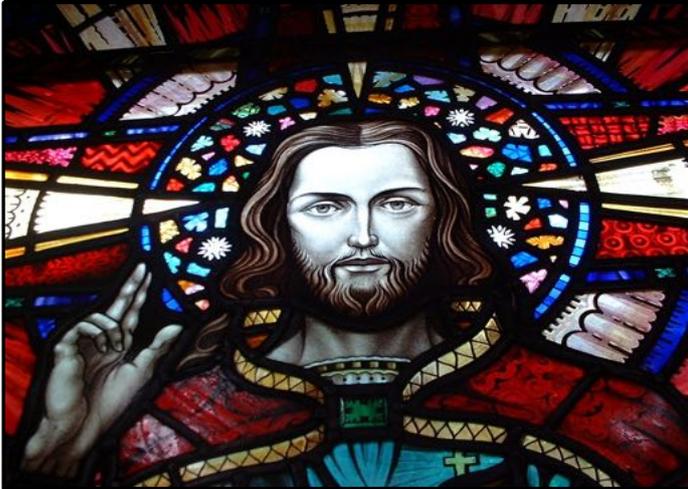


newsletter



9 and 10 September 2017

23rd 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

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



Follow
us on
Facebook

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross – 14 September

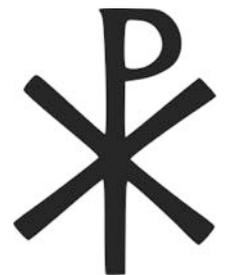
Early in the fourth century, St Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She pulled down the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Saviour's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre over the tomb. During the excavation, workers found three crosses; legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.



The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem towards the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: 'Then the people pass through; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on'.

To this day, the Catholic Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in AD 614, 15 years earlier.

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewellery. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty: it stood outside too many city walls decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority – including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor, or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.



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

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows – 15 September

For a while there were two feasts in honour of the Sorrowful Mother: one going back to the 15th century, the other to the 17th century. For a while the universal Church celebrated both: one on the Friday before Palm Sunday, the other in September.

The principal biblical references to Mary's sorrows are in Luke 2:35 and John 19:26-27. The passage from Luke is Simeon's prediction about a sword piercing Mary's soul; the passage from John relates Jesus' words from the cross to Mary and to the beloved disciple.

Many early Church writers interpret the sword as Mary's sorrows, especially as she saw Jesus die on the cross. Thus, the two passages are brought together as prediction and fulfilment.

St Ambrose in particular sees Mary as a sorrowful yet powerful figure at the cross. Mary stood fearlessly at the cross while others fled. Mary looked on her Son's wounds with pity, but saw in them the salvation of the world. As Jesus hung on the cross, Mary did not fear to be killed, but offered herself to her persecutors.

Reflection

John's account of Jesus' death is highly symbolic. When Jesus gives the beloved disciple to Mary, we are invited to appreciate Mary's role in the Church: She symbolises the Church; the beloved disciple represents all believers. As Mary mothered Jesus, she is now mother to all his followers. Furthermore, as Jesus died, he handed over his Spirit. Mary and the Spirit cooperate in begetting new children of God, almost an echo of Luke's account of Jesus' conception. Christians can trust that they will continue to experience the caring presence of Mary and Jesus' Spirit throughout their lives and throughout history.

Adapted from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org>



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Sacred Heart Church, Flitwick

TEA
COFFEE



CAKE
RAFFLE

29 September
After 9.30 am Mass
PLEASE COME ALONG
BRING A FRIEND

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

SUMMER PARISH BRUNCH

We are holding a summer brunch **THIS Sunday 10 September** after 9.00 am Mass. Tickets are still available at £5.00 per person and £12.00 per family.



BOOK CLUB – NEXT MEETING

Thursday 21 September at 7.30 pm
(in Ros Penn's home)

New members made very welcome and we will chat about this next book. Tea and coffee and snacks will be available. The next book is *Impressions of Jesus* by Denis McBride.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Now that school has started children's liturgy will be available at 9.00 am Mass and we hope to have it at 6.00 pm Mass soon. This group is aimed at children in Year 2 and below.



Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 2 and 3 September the total was £453.06.
With thanks, Finance Committee.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

We are looking forward to starting our Sacramental programme soon.

If your child is in Year 2 she/he is ready to start Reconciliation on 12 November.

If your child is in Year 3 and completed the Reconciliation programme, the Communion programme will start on 25 February 2018. Both programmes will run every week after the Sunday Mass.

Post-Communion will run alongside both classes fortnightly.

It is **vital** to register for these programmes, please email sacraments@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk to receive enrolment paperwork. Please make sure you include your child's Year in September 2017.

PLEASE NOTE – the email address this week is the correct one. Sorry for any inconvenience. Please enrol again if you have tried with the other address.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **20 September**, 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 

The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **11 September** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589. 

Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday, **18 September** at 7.30 pm at 80 George Street, Maulden. As we start our new year you would be very welcome to join us to pray for your family intentions in full confidentiality. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186. We meet fortnightly. 

 Tea and coffee will be available after 9.00 am Mass. All welcome

Parish Pilgrimage 2018
Planning Meeting
Saturday 30 September

11.00 am

in the church room

All parishioners are cordially invited to attend and have a say in where we go next!

Presentation on places of pilgrimage.
Refreshments

SVP APPEAL

Most of you are aware of the work of the SVP in the parish, visiting those who may be lonely and being 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 NEXT weekend of **16 and 17 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 be on hand to answer any questions that you might want to ask.

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 financial giving.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER – WORKERS

O Lord, you imposed a duty on all human beings to work together to build up the world. Help us to develop the earth by the work of our hands and with the aid of technology, in order that it may bear fruit and become a dwelling place worthy of the whole human family. Let us realise that we are obeying Christ's command to place ourselves at the service of others in bringing forth a more human world, through your Son Jesus Christ. 

INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and THIS Wednesday at 7.15 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	9 September	6.00 pm	Betty Mahony, RIP
Sunday	10 September	9.00 am	Intentions of Fr. Bennie
Monday	11 September	9.30 am	Valerie Jones, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	12 September		No Service
Wednesday	13 September	7.30 pm	People of the Parish
Thursday	14 September	9.30 am	Young-Mi Sawa- Smith, Recently Deceased, RIP
Friday	15 September	9.30 am	Mary and Thomas Kerrigan 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, 9 and 10 September

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am
1 st Reading	Pat Crowe	Pauline Chambers
2 nd Reading	Adrian Hamilton	Noelette Hanley
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Hilary Brennan
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Wilson	Ros Penn
Driver		Ros Penn

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 16 and 17 September

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am
1 st Reading	Dee Brady	Martin Brennan
2 nd Reading	Suzanne Yates	Brendan Spillane
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Nicky Paterson
Eucharistic Minister	Chris Till	Anne Gadsden
Driver		David Toland