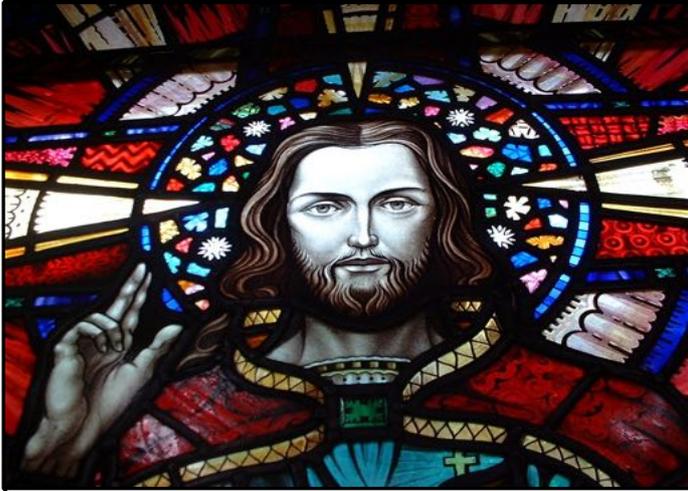


newsletter



9 and 10 December 2017

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B



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



Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP

Contact: 01525 715 109, 07711 953 926, www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Father John Danford, Parish Priest

sacredheartlb@btinternet.com, 01525 372 321

Deacon Philip, Pastoral Administrator

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Suzanne Yates, Parish Secretary

secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



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Feast of St John of the Cross (1542-1591) – 14 December

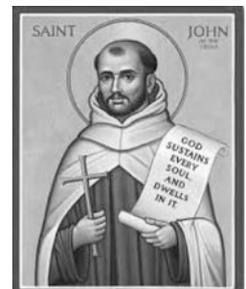
Born in Spain in 1542, John learned the importance of self-sacrificing love from his parents. His father gave up wealth and status when he married a weaver's daughter and was disowned by his noble family. After his father died, his mother kept the destitute family together as they wandered, homeless, in search of work. These were the examples of sacrifice that John followed with his own great love, God.

At fourteen, John took a job caring for hospital patients who suffered from incurable diseases and madness. It was out of this poverty and suffering that John learned to search for beauty and happiness not in the world, but in God.

After John joined the Carmelite Order, St Teresa of Avila asked him to help her reform movement. John supported her belief that the order should return to its life of prayer. But many Carmelites felt threatened by this reform, and some of them kidnapped him. He was locked in a cell six feet by ten feet and beaten three times a week by the monks. There was only one tiny window high up near the ceiling. He had nothing left but God and God brought John his greatest joys in that tiny cell.

After nine months John escaped, by climbing out a window, taking only the mystical poetry he had written in his cell. He hid from pursuers in a convent infirmary where he read his poetry to the nuns. From then on, his life was devoted to sharing and explaining his experience of God's love.

His life of poverty and persecution could have produced a bitter cynic. Instead it gave birth to a compassionate mystic, who lived by the beliefs that 'Who has ever seen people persuaded to love God by harshness?' and 'Where there is no love, put love and you will find love'.



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

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2017 AT SACRED HEART

| | | |
|--|----------|--|
| Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve | 6.00 pm | Mass especially for Children and Families |
| | 10.00 pm | Midnight Mass |
| Monday 25 December Christmas Day | 9.00 am | Mass during the Day |

The Advent Conversation

Our Baptismal Mission



Discovering what it Means to be
a Priest, Prophet and King or
Queen

*This last session has been
postponed until the
New Year*

Gather at 7.30 pm for a time of reflection and
conversation about our baptismal mission as priests,
prophets and kings or queens

BOOKING IS NOT ESSENTIAL

SECOND COLLECTION FOR HOME MISSION SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND

The Home Mission Office exists to help the
Church throughout England and Wales to share
the joy of the Gospel. It can seem daunting to
share such a personal part of our lives as our faith
in Jesus Christ. However, we can
pray that the people we carry in
our hearts will encounter him for
themselves. If you would like to
pray regularly for the spread of the Good News,
please sign up to our newsletter at
www.homemission.org.uk



Please consider contributing to today's second
collection. The money received ensures that the
Catholic Faith Centre is resourced and is able to
respond to those who have questions about the
Catholic faith.

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the
parish. For 2 and 3 December the total was
£448.24.

With thanks, Finance Committee.

Flitwick Singers
present

The Greatest Gift of All
A Christmas Concert
for Noah Enterprises, Luton
THIS Friday 15 December
at 7.30 pm

Here at Sacred
Heart Church
Refreshments
available

Tickets available on
the door



Carol Service

with Nativity
Tableau

THIS Sunday
10 December
2017

3.00 pm

Followed by
Refreshments



Youth Alpha Programme
will continue next Saturday
16 December with the
question *How can we have
faith?* It starts at 4.30 pm and will
finish in time for 6.00 pm Mass.

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



ADVENT EXPOSITION

Our Advent period of Exposition
will be on **Wednesday 13**
December. It will commence at
7.00 pm and end with
benediction at 8.45 pm.



This period of Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament will offer an opportunity to
be with Our Lord in silent vigil and could form
an important part of our Advent preparations.
Please feel free to come for as long as you
like. Even if you can manage only a few
minutes of prayer in a busy day, it will be
worth it to experience peace and tranquillity in
Our Lord's presence.

THE GIVING TREE

As usual, the first Sunday in Advent will see the appearance of the SVP Giving Tree in our church. The stickers that cover it bear the name of an item needed at the Prebend Day Centre in Bedford to support the homeless and rootless. If you can help, please take some of the stickers, purchase the items named and return them to the church by Monday **18 December**.



The items we are seeking are toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving foam and gel, disposable razors, shampoo and shower gel. We would also like men's pants and ladies' knickers, along with socks, scarves, hats and gloves. In the food line we would like some tins of corned beef, packets of biscuits and small bars of chocolate.

When buying items, please avoid expensive ones – value and store own brand are much better and are less likely to be stolen from the recipients; not a nice thought but a real one when we want to help those in need hang on to the few possessions they might have.

Thanks in advance for your generosity. Everything that you give will reach those in need in time for Christmas.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **21 December**, 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 **11 December**

from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday, **11 December** at 7.30 pm with a time of fellowship and Christmas nibbles before our normal time of prayer for our families. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186. We shall then take a break until the New Year.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle Two

Celebrant: For God will guide Israel with joy, b the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Deacon: Come, Lord Jesus, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy.



The Second Candle on the Wreath is lit.

ALL: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

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



Preparing the Church for Christmas

Dear parishioners, please come along to help with cleaning and decorating the church as we prepare for Christmas. Come on **Tuesday 19 December** at 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.



Many hands make light work!

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION MONDAY 18 DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM

Prepare for the season of Christmas by joining us for the service of reconciliation. After a short liturgy of prayer, readings and preparation there is the opportunity for a personal act of confession with our local priests.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR DECEMBER – OUR DIOCESE

God our Father, in all the churches scattered throughout the world you show forth the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Through the Gospel and the Eucharist bring your people of the diocese of Northampton together in the Holy Spirit and guide us in your love. We acknowledge with deep gratitude your abundant blessings bestowed on this diocese and its people.



INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 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 10.30 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.

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|---|
| Saturday | 9 December | 6.00 pm | Matthew and Eileen Halton, RIP |
| Sunday | 10 December | 9.00 am | Deceased of the Harrison Family and the Deceased of the Kehoe and Dillon Families |
| Monday | 11 December | 9.30 am | Intentions of Ros and Russell Penn |
| Tuesday | 12 December | | No Service |
| Wednesday | 13 December | 7.00 pm | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Thursday | 14 December | | No Service |
| Friday | 15 December | 9.30 am | Service of the Word and Communion |

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 December

| Mass | 6.00 pm | 9.00 am |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 st Reading | Dee Brady | Una McAlinden |
| 2 nd Reading | Suzanne Yates | Kate Mansford |
| Eucharistic Minister | Deacon Philip Pugh | Catherine Davies |
| Eucharistic Minister | Adrian Hamilton | Ros Penn |
| Driver | | David Toland |

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

| Mass | 6.00 pm | 9.00 am |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 st Reading | Maggie Dullaghan | Bernadette Basterfield |
| 2 nd Reading | Pat Crowe | Victoria Basterfield |
| Eucharistic Minister | Deacon Philip Pugh | Martin Stynes |
| Eucharistic Minister | Don Perrett | Nicky Paterson |
| Driver | | C./J. Gallagher |