

newsletter



10 and 11 January 2015

Baptism of the Lord, 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

Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP
Tel: 01525 715 109, www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



Times of Mass

Saturday	10 January	6.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Sunday	11 January	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Special Intentions
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Special Intentions
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	12 January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion
Tuesday	13 January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	No Service
Wednesday	14 January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	15 January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	No Service
Friday	16 January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion

A Reflection by Fr. Denis

For once in his life, John the Baptist found himself at a loss for words. He stared in amazement at the figure of Jesus standing calmly before him and asking to be baptised.

When he recovered sufficiently to speak, he said, 'It is I who need baptism from You, and yet You come to me!' Jesus' reply, 'Leave it like this for the time being,' was reassuring. John overcame his hesitation and gave way. The two men walked with purpose into the waters of the Jordan. Behind the sight of the desert prophet baptising Jesus, lay the incredible fact that John was baptising his Lord.

The incident took place in the midst of a religious revival. Once again, a prophet appeared to Israel proclaiming in a voice of thunder the coming of the Messiah and the need for repentance.

John, for all his courage and virtue, did not have the fullness of the gospel. His teaching focused on God as a God of justice, and he had warned against an attempt to 'fly from the retribution that is coming'. John's teaching appears to contrast with Jesus' view of God as the loving heavenly Father who cares for each individual, someone to be trusted rather than feared.

Why, then, did Jesus go to John? More importantly, why did He ask for baptism, since He was sinless and had no need to repent?

The answer is that Jesus wanted to identify Himself with sinful humanity and its need for God. He would later be accused of being 'the friend of sinners', and eventually die for them on a cross between two criminals.



Fr. Denis writes ...

In the great vine-growing regions of the world, it soon becomes apparent how vineyards are different from other forms of agriculture. The vine grower behaves towards the vineyard more like a passionate gardener than like a farmer. Vines are not a product that chops and changes with years and seasons. Many vines can outlive their owners, and a little like human beings, they offer a different gift of fruit in their youth, mature years and old age.

The business is beautifully illustrated in the books of Patricia Atkinson, *The Ripening Sun* and *La Belle Saison*. Patricia is an Englishwoman who went with her husband to live and work in a vineyard to the south of Bordeaux in France. Her husband then withdrew to England, leaving her to sink or swim in this new and alien world. The books are the story of how she came to love her vines and vineyard. They tell of the challenges and difficulties involved; but this is also the story of one woman's endurance, passion and imagination as she becomes more and more involved in making the vineyard a going concern. If the books recount the obstacles she had to overcome, they also reveal the immense kindness and support she received from her neighbours in the local community. Hers is a love affair with a community as much as with her vines. No wonder the wines she makes are a magical expression of such co-operative flair and goodwill.



The vineyard is a favourite image of God's people in both the Old and New Testaments. It brings out the closeness of the Lord to His people, the way He is prepared to work with them to produce fruit, His long-term investment in their success. But things can go wrong. If the vineyard is not well cared for, if it is neglected, it will not produce good fruit. If those who are in charge keep the produce for their own use, pretending it is their own and not God's, then disaster will ensue and the vineyard will be taken away from them.

As those who have inherited the Lord's vineyard hear this parable, we may find ourselves asking the question: 'How are we to look after this gift to us?' The virtues of perseverance, imagination and working together will contribute greatly. It is also important to keep God in mind throughout our activities.

Sunday Latin Mass:

A Latin Mass is celebrated at 5.00 pm on Sundays. The Mass is from the missal of 1962 and fulfils the Sunday obligation.

INFORMATION

CONFESSIONS

Confessions have been suspended for the present, please contact Deacon Philip for information on 07780 687 452.

PRAYER LINE

Please ring for intercessory prayer on 01525 634 186. We have some wonderful answers to prayers. Be assured of full confidentiality.

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 7.45pm. If you would to join us or would like more details or if you know of anyone who needs a visit, help with transport or any other need, contact Pat Rees on 01525 713 547.

CARDS, GIFTS, etc.

Are available for sale in Sacred Heart church after 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses. All are priced. Please put money in the repository box in the porch or see Clare Bevan – contact on 01525 403 589.

LITTLE 'UNS

Meet every Friday 10.15 am–11.45 am in term time, in the church hall. This is a group for babies and pre-schoolers. For further information please contact Catherine Bevan Dunn on 01525 862 253.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER ONLINE

<http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk>

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 27 and 28 December the total was £467.55; this is £82.45 less than is needed to meet the parish running costs. For 3 and 4 January the total was £539.28; this is £10.72 less than what is needed to meet the parish running costs.

With thanks, Fr. Denis.

Fr. Denis thanks you for your Christmas offerings. The total this year was £2807.09

THE POST-COMMUNION GROUP



The post-Communion group runs generally every Sunday, excluding school holidays. Our next meeting is **25 January**. We meet in church after the 9.00 am Mass.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS meet fortnightly and our next meeting is on Tuesday **13 January** at 7.30pm at 80 George St., Maulden. Please ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for more information or just to ask for prayer for your intentions.



THE PRE-COMMUNION GROUP



The pre-Communion group runs generally every Sunday, excluding school holidays. We meet in church after the 9.00 am Mass from 9.45 am till 10.30 am. For more details visit [http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk/child and youth.html](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk/childand youth.html)

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP



Our next meeting is on **21 January** 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654 for information.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

Wednesdays from 4 February to 18 March (8 weeks)

Featuring the acclaimed Bible TimeLine programme in use in parishes across the country.



Book the dates in your diary to join us in the fascinating and informative study of God's plan for salvation.

For details of the programme and enrolment please see the posters and leaflets in church. (Excludes Ash Wednesday: Tuesday 17 February instead).



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **12 January** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. Bring your sewing, knitting, crochet or whatever, and join like-minded people. For more information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.

Tea and coffee will be available after 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses today. All welcome.



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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week 10 and 11 January

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 st Reader	Judith Latham	Pat Crowe	Martin Brennan
2 nd Reader	Mary Brown	Kate Mansford	Hugh Davies
Eucharistic	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Pat King	Christopher McMellon	Hilary Brennan
Driver			John Gallagher

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 17 and 18 January

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 st Reader	Michael Burgess	Eamonn Diver	Bernadette Basterfield
2 nd Reader	Pat Rees	Alison Braniff	Victoria Basterfield
Eucharistic	Noreen Weighell	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Helen Burgess	Jane Crow	Tony Davis
Driver		Marion McClurg	



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SECOND COLLECTION

We try to limit second collections to one a month wherever possible. There are times when we are approached for donations for good causes that we feel we ought to support and these are done from parish funds. However it would be helpful if, once a year, we could hold a collection for the *Sacred Heart Worthy Causes Reserve Fund*. We would like to do this on **24/25 January** and we will publish a list of the donations every year.

Men's Breakfast

24 January 2015 (9.30 am to 11.00 am)
Gentlemen! Why not join us for the next Men's Breakfast to start the New Year with conversation, fellowship and a bacon sandwich! Donation of £1.00.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

A big thank you to all who supported the Christmas raffle the grand sum of £270.00 was raised towards church funds.

BOOK CLUB

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday **22 January 2015** at 7.30 pm, at Ros Penn's home. New members made very welcome and we will chat about this book, *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey (refreshments will be served).

ALL INVITED TO OUR CATHEDRAL

Bishop Peter invites the diocese to our cathedral on **21 January** for a service to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Vatican II's Decree on Ecumenism; also invited are any ecumenical friends you may have. Archbishop Longley will be preaching, and there will be guests from other Christian churches in our diocese.

THE FINAL TOTAL

As promised, here is the final total for the donations to the SVP Giving Tree: an amazing 997 items, far, far more than ever before. (For interest, the top items were socks – 219 pairs.) Thank you so much for your generosity.

New Year's Resolution Volunteer for CAFOD



Why not make volunteering for CAFOD your resolution? We need volunteers to speak in parishes and/or schools about our work in the developing world. If you have good public speaking skills and want to help tackle poverty and injustice we would love to hear from you.

CAFOD Supporters' Day – All Welcome

Did you know CAFOD works in Myanmar (Burma)? Come and find out more and learn about matched funding on either:

Sat 17 January at St Teresa's Parish Hall, New Road, Princes Risborough, HP27 0JN or

Sat 24 January at St Augustine Church, Langcliffe Drive, Heelands, Milton Keynes MK13 7PL. Coffee/tea from 10.00 am, session from

10:30 am-1.30 pm. Please Book:

01844 274 723 or email:

northampton@cafod.org.uk

QUIET DAY

Saturday 31 January 2015

10.30 am till 3.00 pm

Finding Peace and Praying for Peace

After our successful new venture last year, we will be offering another opportunity to spend some time in quiet contemplation. All you need to do is to set aside an hour or so to explore a series of prayer spaces and bases in the church. Tea and coffee available all day, with a listening ear on hand.



Circle of Prayer for January – For Peace

Dear Lord, as we begin a new year, we pray for an increase of Your peace in the world. For ourselves, that we would have Your peace in our hearts and live lives of peace. We pray especially for those who do not know peace, and for those who live in areas of conflict, that Your peace and presence would break through into their hearts. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

