

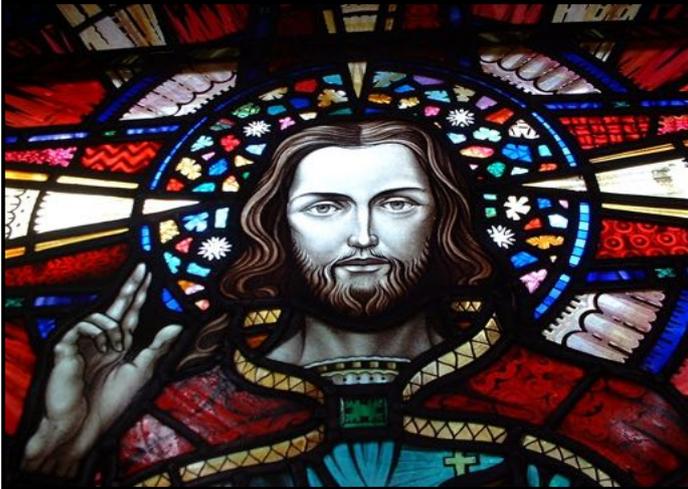


newsletter



10 and 11 December 2016

3rd Sunday of Advent – 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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Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, the 'pink' Sunday. On this Sunday we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath and the priest wears pink vestments. Gaudete is from the Latin word to rejoice. It is a command ordering us to rejoice! In these days of preparation leading up to the feast of our Saviour's birth, it reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Jesus.



In Advent, we not only celebrate the first coming of our Lord, but we also eagerly prepare for his Second Coming, when the restoration of all things takes place. We Christians live in hope and strive to overcome the trials and troubles of this world by sharing the love and joy of Jesus and the Gospel. The earliest Christians cried 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!', expecting Jesus to come at any moment. So should we, longing for his return making our hearts and our souls ready. It is indeed something to celebrate and prepare for. Advent turns our hearts and minds to this reality.

Should commercialism or the evils of the world get us down, we need to look at the Advent wreath with its candles burning down patiently, a new one each week in the spiral they create going down, as we light the pink one this week which fills us with joy that we are getting closer and closer to the coming of the Lord. We can let our burdens drop away at the foot of the manger when he smiles at us. We can receive him into our arms and hearts as Mary holds him out to us as the gentle Joseph looks on. This Child is our victory.

Rejoice!

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

There will be a second collection for Home Mission Sunday this weekend.

Supporting the work of evangelisation in England and Wales

We will celebrate Home Mission Sunday on **10 and 11 December** and this year the theme is *Proclaim the Joy of Love*. On this day we are encouraged to pray for the work of evangelisation in England and Wales, remembering in our prayers especially those whom we know are distant from the life of faith. Please support the second collection which funds the bishops' national work of evangelisation. The collection also ensures that the Catholic Faith Centre is resourced to respond to those who have questions about the Catholic faith.



**ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION
THURSDAY 15 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.



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 20 December** at 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.



**CAROL SERVICE
Sunday 18 December
at 3.00 pm.**

This is a traditional carol service with readings and carols and a presentation of 2016 events and looking forward to 2017. This will be followed by refreshments.



13 DECEMBER – FEAST OF ST LUCY

St Lucy was a virgin and martyr who was one of the earliest Christian saints to achieve popularity, having a widespread following before the 5th century. She is the patron saint of the city of Syracuse Sicily. Because of various traditions associating her name with light, she came to be thought of as the patron of sight.



According to apocryphal texts, Lucy came from a wealthy Sicilian family. Spurning marriage and worldly goods, she vowed to remain a virgin in the tradition of St Agatha. An angry suitor reported her to the local Roman authorities, who sentenced her to be removed to a brothel and forced into prostitution. This order was thwarted, according to legend, by divine intervention; Lucy became immovable and could not be carried away. She was next condemned to death by fire, but she proved impervious to the flames. Finally, her neck was pierced by a sword and she died in AD 304.

In actuality, Lucy was probably a victim of the wave of persecution of Christians that occurred late in the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian. As evidence of her early fame, two churches are known to have been dedicated to her in Britain before the 8th century, at a time when the land was largely pagan.

In Sweden, St Lucia's Day marks the beginning of the Christmas celebration. On that day the eldest daughter of the family traditionally dresses in a white robe and wears as a crown an evergreen wreath studded with candles.

Adapted from <https://www.britannica.com>

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 3 and 4 December the total was £466.92; this is £83.08 less than what is needed to meet the parish running costs.
With thanks, Finance Committee.

A Latin Mass in the Traditional Rite will be celebrated at St Francis's Shefford on **Friday 16 December** at 7.30 pm

THE GIVING TREE

As usual, the first Sunday in Advent saw 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 tomorrow, **Monday 12 December.**



When buying items, please avoid expensive ones: value- and store-own brands 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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle Three

Celebrant: He will exult with joy over you.
He will renew you by his Love.

Deacon: Come, Lord Jesus, bring to this broken world, the love and peace of God.



The Third Candle on the Wreath is lit.

ALL: REJOICE FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

Congratulation to Najoua and Ryan O'Dell who were married here at Sacred Heart on Saturday 10 December.



We wish them every blessing for their lives together.

FOODBANK

The last collection for our Foodbank will be 16 December. Mince pies (dated till at least end of month), gravy granules, ready meals, hot dogs, meatballs, tinned meats and bottles of squash are needed.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2016 AT SACRED HEART

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve	7.00 pm	Children's and Family Mass
	9.00 pm	Midnight Mass
Sunday 25 December Christmas Day	11.00 am	Mass during the Day

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 for information.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **12 December** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For more information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS

wishes everyone a happy Christmas and we will resume in the New Year. New members will be made very welcome; ring Sue Barley for more information on 01525 634186. The meeting is usually held in Maulden.



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



Don't forget the £1 in the bottle for St Francis Suite!



Circle of Prayer for December Refugees and Migrants

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees, migrants and victims of war. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need.



INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and THIS 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

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 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 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	10 December	6.00 pm	Intentions of the Brown Family
Sunday	11 December	11.00 am	Kathleen and Philip Watson, Anniversary, RIP
Monday	12 December	9.30 am	Intentions of Ros and Russell Penn
Tuesday	13 December		No Service
Wednesday	14 December	7.30 pm	Catherine and James McParland, RIP
Thursday	15 December	7.30 pm	Advent Service of Reconciliation
Friday	16 December	9.30 am	Deceased of Flitton, Noland and Dunne Families

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 December		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Angela Bartlett	Dennis Horner
2 nd Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Martin Brennan
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Peter Hyde	Deacon Peter Hyde
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Nicky Paterson
Driver		C./J. Gallagher
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 17 and 18 December		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reader	Suzanne Yates	Brendan Spillane
2 nd Reader	Mary Brown	Brendan Spillane
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Adrian Hamilton	Grace McKenna
Driver		Louis Chadwick