

# newsletter



13 and 14 May 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 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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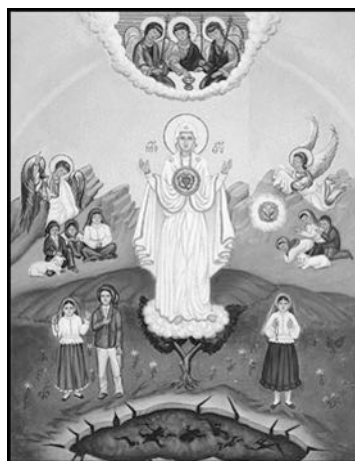


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## ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA – 13 MAY

The story begins in the village of Fatima, Portugal, on 13 May 1917. On that day near Fatima, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, appeared to three young peasant children: Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia, aged 10, 9 and 7 respectively. These children were tending their family's sheep when 'a lady in white, more brilliant than the sun... indescribably beautiful', appeared to the children. From May to October 1917, the Lady appeared and spoke to the children on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

News of these apparitions spread throughout the region. The children recounted that the Virgin told them that God had sent her with a message for every man, woman, and child living in the century. She promised that God would grant peace to the entire world if her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed. When it became known the Lady would visit the children for the last time on 13 October, and had promised a sign that would convince the world she had appeared, many pilgrims attended. The region had had three days of torrential rain, nearly 70,000 people journeyed through



the heavy rain and mud to the place of the previous apparitions, to witness the predicted miracle. Many were scornful.

Suddenly the 'clouds separated, and the sun appeared between them in the clear blue, like a disc of white fire'. The people could look at the sun without blinking and while they gazed upwards, the huge ball began to 'dance'. It whirled rapidly with dizzy and sickening speed, flinging out brilliant colours that reflected on the faces of the crowds. The fiery ball continued to gyrate in this manner three times, then seemed to tremble and shudder, and plunge in a mighty zigzag course toward the earth. The crowd was terrified, fearing this was the end of the world.

However, the sun reversed course and returned to its normal place in the heavens. All this took about ten minutes. When the crowd realised they were not doomed, they began ecstatically laughing, crying, shouting and weeping. Many discovered their previously drenched clothing to be perfectly dry. After what has become

*(continued on page 2)*

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known as 'The Miracle of the Sun', the children were grilled about what they had seen and been told. Their story never changed. The heart of Our Lady's message is contained in what has become known as the 'secret', which she told the children in July 1917. The 'secret' consists of three parts. The first part was a frightening vision of hell, 'where the souls of poor sinners go', and contained an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls, with particular emphasis on praying of the rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second part specifically prophesied the outbreak of World War II and contained the prediction of the immense damage that Russia would do to humanity by abandoning the Christian faith and embracing communists' totalitarianism. The third part was not revealed until 2000. Its revelation coincided with the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta. The vision supported and affirmed the immense suffering endured by witnesses of the faith in the last century of the second millennium. Sister Lucia, the surviving member of the Fatima trio, confirmed that in the vision 'the Bishop clothed in white', who prays for all the faithful, is the Pope. As he makes his way with great difficulty towards the cross amid the corpses of those who were martyred (bishops, priests, men and women religious and many lay people), he too falls to the ground, apparently dead, under a hail of gunfire. It is possible that the vision predicted the 1981 attack on Pope John Paul II's life. The Pope has always credited the Virgin for his survival. Or it may be a portrayal of the Church's continued struggle against secularism and anti-Christian movements, and a continuing call to prayer, sacrifice and devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Adapted from <http://olmodesto.com>



Are you interested in a youth group? Have you got questions about your faith? Come along to our youth group, YouCat, which is for all young people who have been Confirmed.

We will be meeting in the St Frances Suite on 20 May after 6.00 pm Mass.

Food, Fun and Questions.

## DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 10 JUNE 2017

This year we have booked a coach for the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham. We arrive in time for Mass with Bishop Peter at 12 midday. At 3.00 pm there will be a short procession along the pilgrim route from the Chapel of Reconciliation to the priory grounds, where there will be a short service. The coach will leave at 8.00 am and we hope to return by 6.00 pm. You will need to bring a packed lunch. The cost will be £30. Please put your name and contact details on the sign-on sheet.



Tickets will be available soon.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parish Pastoral Council invite you to their annual general meeting which will be held in the parish room between 7.30 and 8.00 pm on Thursday **25 May**.

This is an opportunity for you to meet the members of this group and raise any questions you have about their work for the parish.

### BOOK CLUB – NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 8 JUNE AT 7.30 PM

In the home of Ros Penn  
New members made very  
welcome and we will chat  
about this book  
(tea/coffee and snacks).

Our next book to read is  
*A Nun's Story* by Sister Agatha



### SAVE THE DATE

23 June, 2.00 pm, SVP Mass for the Sick

## BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS

The next baptism preparation classes will be held on Saturday **27 May and 3 June**, 10.00 am for one hour in the St Francis Suite. We encourage attendance of new parents asking for baptism of their child, to attend.



We also welcome parents who may wish to renew their preparation for baptism as their families grow larger. Asking for baptism for your child is the start of your child's sacramental journey in the Church. The sessions look how you develop your child's faith, what you ask of the Church and the promises you make on behalf of your child. We look forward to seeing you and your family. Godparents and grandparents are very welcome.

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 29 and 30 April the total was £546.87; this is less than what is needed to meet the parish running costs. For 6 and 7 May the total was £548.19 this is less than what is needed to meet the parish running costs. The Second collection for the priests' training fund was £365.95. With thanks, Finance Committee.

## TODAY'S SECOND READING IS TAKEN FROM 1 PETER 2:4-9

There are two famous passages in this extract from the First Letter of Peter. The first is to do with the 'stone'. In the Parable of the Tenants, the stone which the builders rejected became the cornerstone of the new community of Christ. The metaphor stands for the resurrection, so completing the parables' account of Salvation history.

In this letter that same thought is carried forward. The Lord is the stone rejected by people but chosen by God so much so that he is the keystone by which a person's future is settled.

The second passage concerns the calling of every Christian. By baptism, Christians are called to the service of God.

The author highlights this calling with the use of three complementary titles. Christians are:

- a chosen race (chosen by God),
- a royal priesthood (every Christian is called to the priesthood where they give worship to God)
- a consecrated nation (by baptism, Christians are set apart and dedicated to God).

By baptism we are enrolled in the service of God. It is at one and the same time, a royal, priestly and consecrated designation. All this gives great praise to God!

*Adapted from The Word of God – Year A by Robin Cooper*

## CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **17 May**. 30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **22 May** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



## MOTHERS' PRAYERS

will meet on **15 May**. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Meetings are 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



First Holy Communion will take place at 11.00 am Mass this weekend. Ben and Oscar will receive their First Holy Communion. Please keep them in your prayers.

A Latin Mass in the Traditional Rite will be celebrated at St Francis's Shefford on **Friday 19 May** at 7.30 pm

## CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR MAY – VOCATIONS

O God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe. I join him in praying for labourers for your harvest. May your Holy Spirit inspire men and women to continue his mission through your priesthood, diaconate, religious life and lay ministry. May this same Spirit make known your will for my life.





## 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 another local priest to say a Mass.

## Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Saturday	13 May	6.00 pm	Deceased parents of Deacon Philip, Ron and Ray Pugh, RIP
Sunday	14 May	11.00 am	Private Intentions
Monday	15 May	9.30 am	Maureen Herlihy, Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday	16 May		No Service
Wednesday	17 May	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	18 May		No Service
Friday	19 May	9.30 am	Ray Mahony, Anniversary, RIP

**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, 13 and 14 May		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Alison Braniff	Brendan Spillane
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Judith Latham	Dennis Horner
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Peter Hyde	Deacon Peter Hyde
Eucharistic Minister	Chris Till	Hilary Brennan
Driver		David Toland
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 20 and 21 May		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Catherine Davies
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Michael Burgess	Una McAlinden
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Pat King	Nicky Paterson
Driver		C./J. Gallagher