

newsletter



14 and 15 January

2nd 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



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Children's Prayer Bag Scheme at Sacred Heart, Flitwick

Over the next few days we will be inaugurating a 'prayer bag' scheme for the youngest children of our parish. The idea is to help parents give their children an experience of the Bible and prayer in the comfort of their own home.

We are all used to spending time with our children in following up with reading and arithmetic tasks from school. These times provide not only of learning but also a time for conversation with our children, a precious thing in our ever-busy lives.

That too is the aim of our own prayer bags. Each bag features a different Bible character or story; each has a set of wooden figures that can be used to help explore the story. No deep knowledge of the Bible or church teaching is needed; everything is provided for parent and child story-time that will develop your children's understanding of the foundational stories of their faith. Arranged in the chronological order of the Old and New Testament the bags may be used in any sequence.

The parish has invested in the bags to teach people of all ages more about the faith. It is intended to enable parents to fulfil their baptism commitment, to be the 'first and best teachers of the child' in the ways of the faith. The prayer bags are ideally suited for children up to and including Year 1, after which we start our formal sacramental preparation.

If you have young children, please take a bag, and over two weeks explore the story and its activities. We simply ask that you return the bag after two weeks for the benefit of other families.



17 January – Feast of St Antony, Abbot (251-356)

St Antony is the originator of the monastic life. Born in Egypt, when his parents died, he listened to the words of the Gospel and gave all his belongings to the poor. He went out into the wilderness to begin a life of penitence, living in absolute poverty, praying, meditating, and supporting himself by manual work. He suffered many temptations, both physical and spiritual, but he overcame them. Disciples gathered round him attracted by his wisdom, moderation, and holiness. He gave support to the victims of the persecutions of Diocletian, and helping St Athanasius in his fight against the Arians. He lived to be over a hundred years old, and died in 356.



The Gospels are full of wise sayings of Jesus that seem to be ignored, and one of the most poignant of these was in his meeting with that young man who asked over and over again, insistently, 'What must I do to have eternal life?'. When, in the end, Jesus told him that if he wanted to be perfect he would have to sell all that he had and give the money to the poor, the young man went away sorrowing, because he was very rich. What could be more of a waste than that? You tell someone what he/she has to do, and he/she is afraid to do it. And yet 250 years later, St Antony hears the story, and does give away all that he has, and becomes the founder of monasticism. And then again, over 1,000 years later, St Francis of Assisi hears the story and gives away his possessions (and some of his father's) and revolutionises Christianity again.

Not all the words that we speak are forgotten, even though we cannot see their effects ourselves. Let us pray that those unknown effects may always be good ones.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

Peace Sunday – 15 January 2017

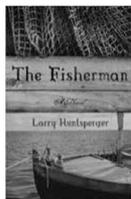
Non-violence: a style of politics for peace. Pope Francis – World Peace Message 2017

In our violent world, this offers a timely opportunity for our parishes to explore the Catholic tradition of non-violence which goes back to Jesus, and to develop ways to make Gospel non-violence better known through our sacramental and education programmes. It is also an effective influence on our social justice work and political choices.



Following a ground-breaking conference on *Nonviolence and Just Peace*, held jointly with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Pax Christi International has launched the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative www.nonviolencejustpeace.net to deepen the Church's commitment to Gospel nonviolence.

BOOK CLUB
DATE OF NEXT
MEETING
THURSDAY 9 MARCH
AT 7.30 PM



In the Home of Ros Penn
New members made very
welcome and we will chat about
this book, *The Fisherman: A
Novel* by Larry Huntsperger.

Sacred Heart 100 CLUB

The latest draw
took place on 8
January and the
lucky winners
were first, **Una
McAlinden**
second **Clare
Bevan** and third
Patrick Crehan.

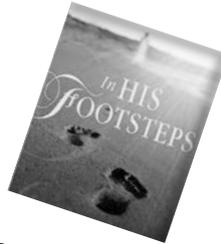
We thank you for your weekly
contribution to the parish. For 7 and 8
January the total was £540.36; this is
£9.64 less than what is needed to
meet the parish running costs. With
thanks, Finance Committee.

A Latin Mass in the Traditional Rite
will be celebrated at St Francis's
Shefford
on **Friday 20 January** at 7.30 pm

ANNUAL QUIET DAY

Saturday 28 January
11.30 am to 3.30 pm

In the footsteps of Jesus
A Journey through the Holy Land



Pop in for as little as an hour throughout the day. Tea and coffee will be on tap. There will be six spaces for quiet prayer, reflection and conversation.

BURNS NIGHT
THURSDAY 26 JANUARY
AT 7.30 PM



This year we are holding a Burns Supper to raise funds for the St Francis Suite. Come and join us to celebrate Scotland's favourite poet, Robert Burns.

For a **cost of only £12.50**, you will enjoy a meal of Scottish food, mock cock-a-leekie soup, haggis, tatties and neeps, cranachan, shortbread, and a wee dram.

Bring a **poem, song, speech or performance** for a turn if you'd like.

LIMITED PLACES!

We only have 30 places, so please call Suzanne Yates on 07919 263 147 or email her on secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk to book and to request vegetarian or meat haggis. Tickets available after Mass.

There will be a second collection this weekend, **14 and 15 January**. When we are asked for donations for good causes these are done from parish funds. We are collecting for the Sacred Heart Worthy Causes Reserve Fund. Gift Aid envelopes are at the back of the church so that if you wish, you can make your donation go further.



The **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** is traditionally observed from the 18 to the 25 January – the octave of St Peter and St Paul. The theme is *Crossing Barriers*.

There will be an ecumenical service on Sunday **22 January** here at Sacred Heart at 3.00 pm. All welcome.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

There is **NO** meeting on **18 January** as the group are going to hear the evangelist, J. Johns, in Woburn. Next meeting **1 February**.

The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **23 January** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. Contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS

will meet on **23 January**. We have had some wonderful answers to our prayers through the years. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. This meeting will be at **5 Elm Drive, Silsoe**. Contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.



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



Sacred Heart - 100 CLUB

End of year one, you have raised the sum of £814 for the parish. Well done and many thanks. Our new year starts **1 February** when subscriptions are due for renewal. Those paid by Standing Order should be automatically renewed, and those who paid by cheque or cash should let Peter Leatherland have their subscription.

Full details will be sent to all concerned.

Circle of Prayer for January – Christian Unity

Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who bear your name and seek to serve you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love one another in humility. May we who have been reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under one Shepherd. Amen.



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

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	14 January	6.00 pm	Intentions of James O'Brien
Sunday	15 January	11.00 am	Margaret Manon, Recently Deceased, RIP
Monday	16 January	9.30 am	Matthew Keenlside, Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday	17 January		No Service
Wednesday	18 January	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	19 January		No Service
Friday	20 January	9.30 am	Michael Shanley, Recently Deceased, 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, 14 and 15 January		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Judith Latham	Pat Rees
2 nd Reading	Alison Braniff	Brendan Spillane
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	John Flanagan	Catherine Davies
Driver		Ros Penn
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 21 and 22 January		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Noelette Hanley
2 nd Reading	Angela Bartlett	Martin Brennan
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	C./M. Rincon	Anne Gadsden
Driver		C./J. Gallagher