

newsletter



14 and 15 March 2015

4th Sunday of Lent, 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

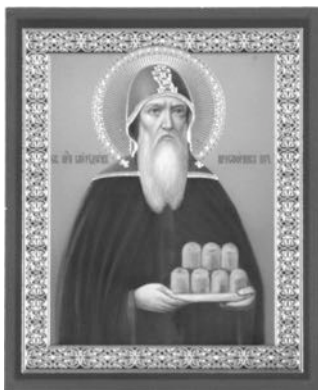
Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP
Tel: 01525 715 109, www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



Times of Mass

Saturday	14 March	6.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church Intentions of Fr. Denis
Sunday	15 March	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church Private Intentions
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church Geraldine McCreesh, RIP
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	16 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church Service of the Word and Communion
Tuesday	17 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church No Service
Wednesday	18 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	19 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church No Service
Friday	20 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church Service of the Word and Communion

Fr. Denis Writes...



The faith that Nicodemus has professed is only a half-faith! It sees the miracle and misses the Messiah. It paddles in the shallow and needs to strike out into the deep. Or to use the metaphor in today's gospel, it needs to come out of the darkness and move towards the light! Nicodemus has come to Our Lord in more than one kind of darkness; not just the darkness of the night, but a darkness of perception too, the darkness of unbelief. He has come a certain distance for this meeting with Jesus. He has a long way to go yet before he encounters the dawn.

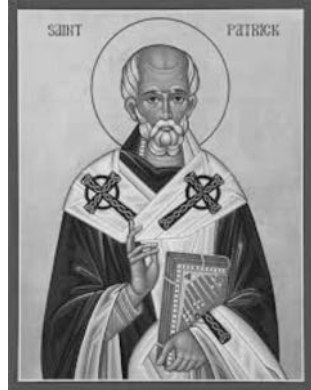
Whether Nicodemus, after listening to Our Lord, had got any further in faith, it is difficult to say. The indications are that he had not. The big obstacle for him was the notion of being 'born again', since he understood it only in the physical sense – how on earth could a man enter a second time into his mother's womb? (Jn 3:4). He had come in the dark. It looks as if he went home in the dark as well.

If you are new to the parish please contact the parish priest – details above.

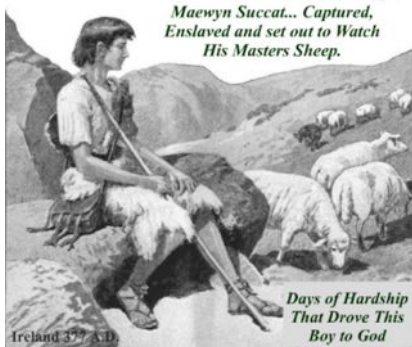
A Reflection by Fr. Denis

Tuesday 17 March – St Patrick's Day

Patrick was born about the year AD 400, either near what is now called the English/Scottish border (in what was then the Province of Britannia in the Roman Empire), or near the River Severn by the present English/Welsh border. Wherever he was born, he was captured by raiders, made a slave and taken to Ireland when he was about sixteen years old. There he was forced to work in the fields, looking after sheep and pigs. He managed to escape in a ship which took him to France. Some time later he became a priest and then a bishop. He returned to his birthplace and had a vivid dream or a vision, calling him to return to Ireland and take the gospel to the people there.



It was as a young man as a captive that he had much time to think and reflect, and he grew in his relationship with God. Spending many days and nights in the open countryside, looking after the animals, he became more and more aware that God was there with him. Patrick learned to live in the Presence of God.



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 7 and 8 March the total was £604.58; this is £54.58 more than the amount we need each week to meet the parish running costs, and will help us to build up a contingency fund.

With thanks, Fr. Denis.

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.

Planned Giving/Gift Aid

Boxes of offertory envelopes will be available for collection next weekend **21/22 March**.



Many thanks to those parishioners that have elected to make their offerings by standing order.

This really does help us in reducing the amount of cash that has to be handled each week, and we are still encouraging you to change to this method.

With around 55 individuals/families now offering by standing order we now are able to reduce the number of offertory envelope boxes required.

Boxes will be arranged in alphabetical order and you will notice that they are numbered from 1 onwards.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer and have not as yet made a Gift Aid Declaration, we would request that you seriously consider completing a simple form. This will enable the parish to receive an additional 25p for every £1 offered.

John Fletcher will be available after all Masses next weekend to provide copies of the forms and further information on any of the planned giving methods. He can also be contacted on Tel: 01525 715 309 or by email plannedgiving@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

MOTHERS' PRAYERS meet fortnightly and our next meeting is on Tuesday **24 March** 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.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We will not be meeting till after Easter so that members of the group can go to the Exploring the Bible sessions. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654 for information.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **23 March** 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.



A selection of Easter cards is now available in the repository. All have the price marked on them; please put the money in the box at the back of the church.



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 14 and 15 March

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 st Reader	Judith Latham	Darren Campbell	Dennis Horner
2 nd Reader	Michael Burgess	Marion McClurg	Angela Turner
Eucharistic	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Helen Burgess	Jane Crow	Catherine Davies
Driver		Kate Mansford	

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 21 and 22 March

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 st Reader	Pat Rees	Noelette Hanley	Sue Barley
2 nd Reader	Angela Bartlett	Christopher McMellon	Eamonn Diver
Eucharistic	Helen Wilson	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Adrian Hamilton	Carlos Rincon	Hilary Brennan
Driver		William Doyle	



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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK IN OUR LENTEN PROGRAMME?

- **Monday 16 March** – SVP are leading the Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm – all welcome.
- **Wednesday 18 March** – Session 7 of the Bible Timeline course at 7.30 pm
- **Saturday 21 March** – First Reconciliation – 9.00 am till 12 midday
- **Saturday 21 March** – Servers' practice for Easter at 1.00 pm.

LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION MONDAY 23 MARCH AT 7.30 PM

Attending the sacrament of penance is a perfect way to prepare for Easter and to complete the time of Lent. Our Lenten service of Reconciliation will include the opportunity for personal confession.



Churches Together in Flitwick and Amptill Good Friday Walk of Witness Friday 3 April at 10.00 am

Join us to follow the cross through Amptill.

Starting at St Andrew's Church at 10.00 am. Walking to Amptill Market Square, Amptill Methodist Church, and finishing at Amptill Baptist Church at about 11.00 am. Walk followed by hot cross buns and tea or coffee.



AN INVITATION TO THE CHRISM MASS THURSDAY 2 APRIL

This year we are organising a trip to attend the annual service when Bishop Peter blesses the sacred oils used in baptism, confirmation and healing throughout the coming year. The Mass begins at 11.00 am – we need to Flitwick at 9.15 am to ensure a good seat! The diocese provides a buffet lunch following the Mass. We will get back to Flitwick around 3.00 pm. Please complete a reply slip, or speak directly to Deacon Philip to enable us to arrange pooled transport deaconphilippugh@gmail.com or phone 07780 687 452.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

The parish is holding a day of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This will be on Tuesday **31 March**, the Tuesday of Holy Week, and will run from 2.00 pm to 9.00 pm. It will provide an opportunity for quiet, reflective time with Our Blessed Lord. We need, as last year, three people to commit to being present in the church for a half hour period during the day. If you can help, sign up on the rota in the porch. If you can't commit to a specific time, please come when you can. This is a time for you to be in prayer in the presence of God. The day will end with Benediction at 8.45 pm.



RETIRING COLLECTION FOR SICK AND RETIRED CLERGY FUND 14 AND 15 MARCH

Although Together in Faith supports sick and retired priests, this is an opportunity for the parishioners who were not able to commit to that, to support these priests. Some of the retired priests are in poor health and most have given over forty years of service to the Church.



Circle of Prayer for March – Candidates for Sacraments

Lord – we praise and thank You for the precious gifts of Your sacraments for each of us. As our brothers and sisters prepare to join us in receiving these wonderful gifts, may they experience the power of Your presence and blessing. Amen



You are invited to a special Impact meeting on **Monday 23 March** at 7.15 pm till 9.00 pm at Bromham Baptist Church. This is a time for information and update about Impact and focussed prayer.