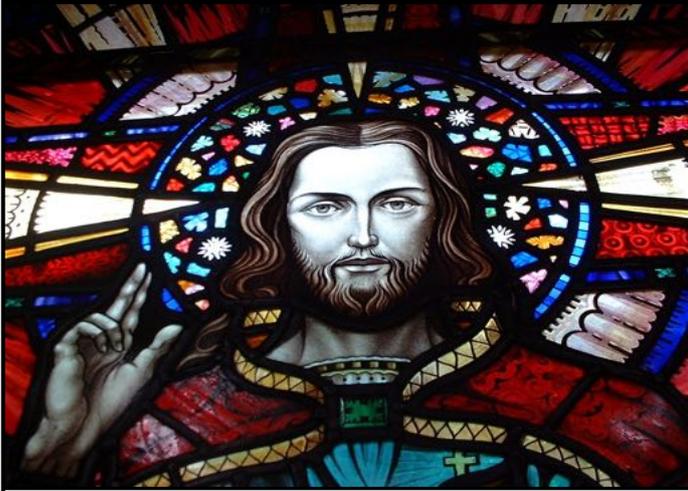


newsletter



15 and 16 July 2017

15th Sunday in 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



Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP
www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Telephone: 01525 715 109 (checked every day), 07711 953 926

Canon Bennie Noonan, Parish Priest frbennie@btinternet.com, 01462 813 436

Deacon Philip, Pastoral Administrator deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926

Suzanne Yates, Parish Secretary secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



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The Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:1-23

The parable of the Sower is one of the most well known of all the parables. The seed falls on four different types of soil: the footpath, rocky ground, thistles and good soil. At first this may seem like careless farming with so much seed wasted. The parable makes sense, however, when seen against the method of farming followed in Palestine in Jesus' day when the sowing was done before the ploughing.

Later in the Gospel reading, Matthew gives an allegorical meaning. This may be a later addition to the story. Originally the story was a simple parable which shows, on the one hand, the frustrations of the sower's work with its weeds, greedy birds and rocky ground; and on the other hand a picture of a rich harvest. The meaning of this simple story is that the kingdom of heaven will be successful in spite of all frustrations and difficulties.



The allegorical interpretation of the parable likens the four types of soil to the four different kinds of hearer of Jesus' message. First there is the unresponsive hearer, where the message is taken away from the hearer; secondly, the shallow hearer representing the person who has no roots; thirdly the worldly hearer who is seduced by the pleasures of this world; and lastly the responsive hearer who lives a life of faith.

Both meanings are valid for the Church of today. The kingdom of heaven will continue to grow and succeed and we must all seek to be the fertile ground in which the word of God may flourish.

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

Questions about the Future of the Parish

How will the children's preparation for First Communion be affected by the ending of 11.00 am Mass? (As this is an important question we have decided to repeat it again this week.)

Children are at the heart of our community and we are determined that that will not change. We are proposing to centre all of the sessions for our children after the new Mass time of 9.00 am on Sunday. These sessions will take place after the Mass is concluded, aiming to begin at 10.00 am and finish at 11.00 am. The programme has had to change, as we will have limited facilities when we have more people attending one Mass.

- Pre-Communion – for children in Reception and Year 1 at school, this will be weekly
- Reconciliation – for children in Year 2; these sessions will be starting in the autumn and ending at the beginning of Lent in February
- First Holy Communion – to enrol, children need to have completed their First Reconciliation; these sessions will run between February and June, the high point will be a First Communion Mass on Saturday, 23 June 2018
- Post-Communion – for children between communion and confirmation age; sessions will be fortnightly
- Confirmation – we trust that this will take place in July 2018; it is intended to keep these sessions on Saturdays, like now.

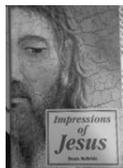
Details and rationale will be emailed to the families for whom we have details of on file. In September, the catechists will convene sessions for parents to go through the details of each individual programme. If you have yet to enrol a child in any stage in the programme, please contact Deacon Philip.

Children's liturgy will continue as part of the 9.00 am Mass.

BOOK CLUB – NEXT MEETING

Thursday **21 September**
at 7.30 pm
(in Ros Penn's home)

New members made very welcome and we will chat about this next book. Tea and coffee and snacks will be available. The



next book is *Impressions of Jesus* by Denis McBride

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



Congratulations to Russell McChristie and Claire Mercer who will be married here at Sacred Heart on Saturday 22 July, with a nuptial Mass. We wish them every blessing for their future.



NORTHAMPTON
development



CATHEDRAL
campaign

Our cathedral in Northampton is the Mother Church of our diocese. If you have ever visited it you will be aware not only of its beauty but also its limitations in not being able to offer hospitality or accommodating special events and groups.

Exciting plans have been developed for the future of the cathedral and the fundraising campaign is underway. For further information about the project and how you can lend your support, please visit the cathedral website at

<http://northamptoncathedral.org/the-cathedral/cathedral-centre> where you can watch a video presentation about the proposed Cathedral Centre.

The campaign office is based in Bishop's House and Angela Madge, the campaign administrator, will be happy to hear from you. Angela can be contacted on 01604 712 065 or email: cathedralcampaign@northamptondiocese.com

Feast of Mary Magdalene – 22 July

Mary of Magdala was healed of 'seven devils' by Jesus, ministered to him in Galilee and was present at his crucifixion. She was in the group of women who were the first to discover the empty tomb, and it was to her that the risen Jesus first appeared.



Western tradition is that Mary Magdalene is also 'the woman who was a sinner' and the sister of Martha and Lazarus of Bethany. There is no evidence, and the tradition is tenuous enough for even such authorities as St Ambrose to hold, with the East, that they are three different people. It seems, therefore, that although the Western tradition is to be respected and is a real inspiration, it may not necessarily be historical. This kind of ambiguity is inevitable in a religion such as Christianity, which is founded on definite historical events, but we need not worry about it too much; if it had been harmful to us to celebrate the tradition of heroic penitence, the Holy Spirit would not have allowed it.

Even without the extra tradition, Mary Magdalene is an important character in the story of the Resurrection, chosen by Christ as one of the first witnesses of the event that changed the world.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **19 July**, 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **24 July** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet on Monday **17 July** with an agape meal and then break up for the summer. We thank Our Lord for so much answered prayer over the last sixteen years. New members are welcome to join us in September to prayer for their families.



THE ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT

Celtic Journeys

Exploring with St Brendan and the Celtic saints

Saturday 16 September 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Buckden Towers

Reserve the date in your diary and look out for the registration leaflets.

Space on the retreat is limited to 20 people. Donation for the day £7.50 – pay on the day – bring a shared lunch



CONFIRMATION 2018

We invite families with children who will be in Year 8 in July 2018, to register for the confirmation programme starting later in the year. Please email Deacon Philip at deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk with the name(s) of your child or child(ren).



Bridget Margaret Russell, RIP

Please remember in your prayers Bridget Russell who died recently. There will be a Requiem Mass here on **Friday 21 July** at 11.00 am. All our sympathy and prayers go to Bridget's family.



SACRED HEART

100 CLUB

The latest draw took place on 9 July and the lucky winners were,
1st Margaret Bradbury,
2nd Mary Aylward,
3rd Tom Eastwood.

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 8 and 9 July the total was £597.44 and the second collection was £214.55. With thanks, Finance Committee.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR JULY – SEAFARERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Almighty God, we give thanks for all those who work at sea. We acknowledge our need for the food and raw materials they transport. We recognise that they are sometimes in danger and their long absences often involve sacrifices in their family life. Help us to show our gratitude not only in our words, but also in our actions. Amen.



INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and NEXT Wednesday at 7.15 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 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.

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	15 July	6.00 pm	Donald Rodgers, Fourth Anniversary, RIP
Sunday	16 July	11.00 am	Private Intentions
Monday	17 July	9.30 am	Intentions of Jan O'Keeffe who is ill
Tuesday	18 July		No Service
Wednesday	19 July	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	20 July		No Service
Friday	21 July	9.30 am	Fr. Denis McSweeney, Anniversary, RIP
		11.00 am	Requiem Mass for Bridget Margaret Russell, 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, 15 and 16 July

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Alison Braniff	Ann Leatherland
2 nd Reading	Judith Latham	Kate Mansford
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Pat King	Clare Bevan
Driver		Kate Mansford

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 22 and 23 July

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Victoria Basterfield
2 nd Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Bernadette Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	John Flanagan	Anne Gadsden
Driver		William Doyle