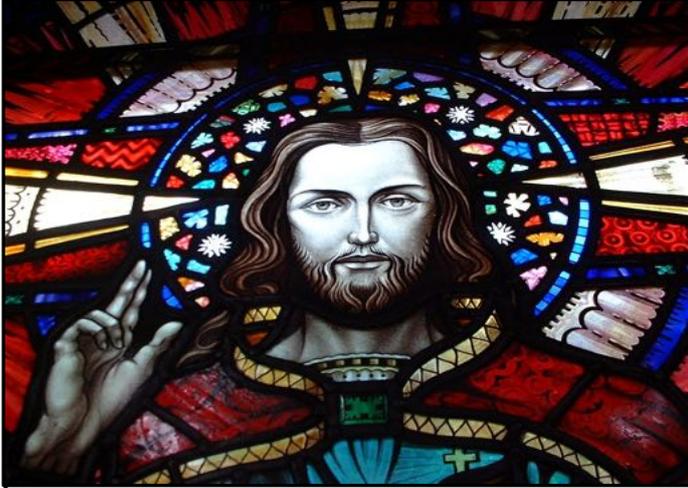


newsletter



16 and 17 September 2017

24th 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



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

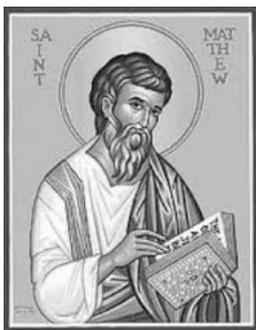
Suzanne Yates, Parish Secretary secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



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Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist – 21 September

St Matthew, one of the twelve Apostles, is the author of the first Gospel. This has been the constant tradition of the Church and is confirmed by the Gospel itself. He was the son of Alpheus and was called to be an Apostle while sitting in the tax collector's place at Capernaum. Before his conversion he was a 'publican', a tax collector by profession. He is to be identified with the 'Levi' of Mark and Luke.



His apostolic activity was at first restricted to the communities of Palestine. Nothing definite is known about his later life. There is a tradition that points to Ethiopia as his field of labour; other traditions mention Parthia and Persia. It is uncertain whether he died a natural death or received the crown of martyrdom.

St Matthew's Gospel was written to fill a need for his fellow countrymen, both believers and unbelievers. For the former, it served as a token of his regard and as an encouragement in the trial to come, especially the danger of falling back to Judaism. For the latter, it was designed to convince them that the Messiah had come in the person of Jesus, our Lord, in whom all the promises of the Messianic Kingdom embracing all people had been fulfilled in a spiritual rather than in a carnal way: 'My Kingdom is not of this world'.

Writing for the people of Palestine, St Matthew composed his Gospel in his native Aramaic, the 'Hebrew tongue' mentioned in the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Soon afterwards, about the time of the persecution of Herod Agrippa I in AD 42, he took his departure for other lands. Another tradition places the composition of his Gospel either between the time of this departure and the Council of Jerusalem, i.e., between AD 42 and AD 50 or even later. The Gospel, depicting the Holy City with its altar and temple as still existing, and without any reference to the fulfilment of our Lord's prophecy, shows that it was written before the destruction of the city by the Romans in AD 70, and this internal evidence confirms the early traditions.

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

Gospel from Matthew 18:25-35

The theme of the Gospel reading this weekend is forgiveness. Peter asks how often he should forgive someone who has offended him. Seven times? This was a generous suggestion as the Jewish Rabbis taught that three times was sufficient. Jesus, on the other hand, takes the matter to the furthest limit. Seventy-seven times is merely a play on the number. The meaning is that there should be no limit to forgiveness.

In support of this statement Jesus tells the story of the two debtors. It is a simple story, easy to understand yet profound. The first debtor owed a vast amount of money and pleaded to be given time to pay. The master was so sorry for him that with extreme generosity, he wiped out his debt and the man was free.

Unfortunately, his good fortune had not changed his character and on meeting a fellow servant who owed him a few denarii, refused him time to pay and had the man thrown into prison.

The master, appalled by such a response, withdrew his forgiveness and sent the first servant to prison.

We must be careful not to think that God, like the master in the parable, will take back his forgiveness. However, if we possess an unforgiving nature that refuses to treat other people with mercy, how can we receive the forgiveness of God, for it only works when there is a spirit of love and compassion?

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

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING Sacred Heart Church Flitwick

TEA

COFFEE

WE ARE
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



CAKE

RAFFLE

29 September

After 9.30 am Mass

PLEASE COME ALONG

BRING A FRIEND

If you would like to donate a raffle prize or volunteer to bake a cake, please contact Anne Gadsden on 07432 595 057.

RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NEXT WEEKEND.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RED BOX HOLDERS

Please check your Red Box for old £1 coins as they cease to be legal tender on 16 October. If you wish, you can hand them or your whole box in at the church – new boxes are under the holy water stoop. Please put your name on the box or bag before handing in. Many thanks, Pat King.



Parish Pilgrimage 2018
Planning Meeting
Saturday, 30 September
11.00 am
in the Church Room

All parishioners are cordially invited to attend and have a say in where we go next.
Presentation on Places of Pilgrimage
Refreshments

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 26 and 27 August the total was £444.67. With thanks, Finance Committee.

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 9.00 am Mass. All welcome



SVP APPEAL

Most of you are aware of the work of the SVP in the parish, visiting those who may be lonely and being ready to help those in need. You are always amazingly generous to us and we want to thank you for all your support. This year's appeal will be on this weekend of **16 and 17 September**. A member of the parish SVP group will speak at both masses and there will be retiring collections.



On the weekend of the appeal, we will also present our annual report and be on hand to answer any questions that you might want to ask.

If you are able and want to gift aid your donations, we will have the pens and envelopes available.

Thank you in advance for all your support in both prayer and financial giving.

We welcome Gabrielle, daughter of Gemma and Hyacinth Burnett, who was baptised into the Catholic community on Saturday.



We ask the parish to pray for her and her family on this special day, and wish her and her family all God's blessings on their journey of faith.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

We are looking forward to starting our sacramental programme soon. If your child is in Year 2, she/he is ready to start Reconciliation on 12 November. If your child is in Year 3 and completed the Reconciliation programme, the Communion programme will start on 25 February 2018.

It is **vital** to register for these programmes, please email sacraments@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk to receive enrolment paperwork. Please make sure you include your child's Year in September 2017.

PLEASE NOTE – the email address this week is the correct one. Sorry for any inconvenience.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **20 September**, 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 **25 September** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday, **18 September** at 7.30 pm at 80 George Street, Maulden. You are very welcome to join us to pray for your family intentions in full confidentiality. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186. We meet fortnightly.



FOODBANK

We are part of the NEED Project



which operates a Foodbank for people in Flitwick and Ampthill. The NEED project is asking for **tinned fruit, tinned rice pudding, tinned ready meals and 500g (1lb) bags of sugar**. Please help.

THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

As October is the month of the rosary we will say the rosary on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm.



More information soon

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER – WORKERS

O Lord, you imposed a duty on all human beings to work together to build up the world. Help us to develop the earth by the work of our hands and with the aid of technology, in order that it may bear fruit and become a dwelling place worthy of the whole human family. Let us realise that we are obeying Christ's command to place ourselves at the service of others in bringing forth a more human world, through your Son Jesus Christ.



INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and THIS 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	16 September	6.00 pm	Valerie Jones, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday	17 September	9.00 am	Intentions of Isabel Rose (a child who is very ill)
Monday	18 September	9.30 am	Mary Hall, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	19 September		No Service
Wednesday	20 September	7.30 pm	People of the Parish
Thursday	21 September	9.30 am	Deceased of the Parish
Friday	22 September	9.30 am	Birthday Remembrance for Gladys Johnson, 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, 16 and 17 September		
Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am
1 st Reading	Dee Brady	Martin Brennan
2 nd Reading	Suzanne Yates	Brendan Spillane
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Nicky Paterson
Eucharistic Minister	Chris Till	Anne Gadsden
Driver		David Toland
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 23 and 24 September		
Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am
1 st Reading	Noreen Weighell	Dennis Horner
2 nd Reading	Mary Brown	Catherine Davies
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	C./M. Rincon
Eucharistic Minister	Pat King	Martin Stynes
Driver		C./J. Gallagher