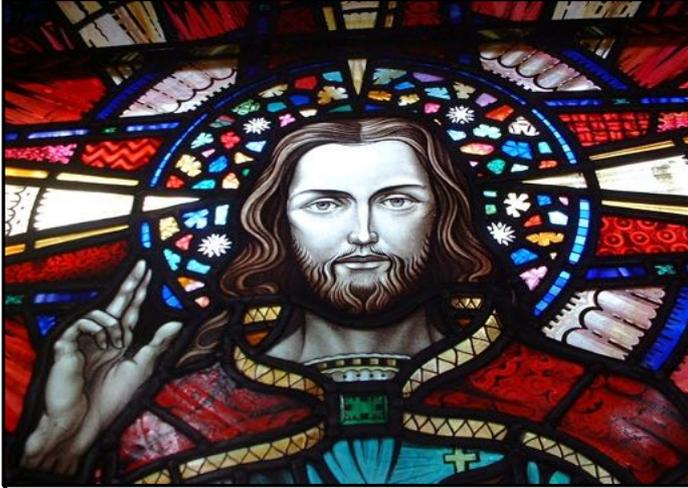


newsletter



16 and 17 December 2017

Third Sunday of Advent, 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



Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

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The O Anthems

The 'O' Antiphons are used as the introduction and conclusion to the Magnificat at Evening Prayer and as the text of the Gospel Acclamation during the final days of Advent, 17 to 23 December. The importance of 'O' Antiphons is twofold: each one highlights a title of the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations).

All adapted from <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk>

Sunday, 17 December

O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth.

Monday, 18 December

O Adonai and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.

Adonai: a Hebrew name for God meaning 'Lord'

Tuesday, 19 December

O Root of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay.

Jesse: father of King David from whose stock Jesus was descended

Wednesday, 20 December

O Key of David and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come and lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Thursday, 21 December

O Rising Sun, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Friday, 22 December

O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you made from clay.

Saturday, 23 December

O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge, the one whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O come and save us, Lord, our God.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2017 AT SACRED HEART

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve	6.00 pm 10.00 pm	Mass especially for Children and Families Midnight Mass
Monday 25 December Christmas Day	9.00 am	Mass during the Day

Youth Alpha Programme will continue next Saturday 13 January with the question *Why and how do we pray?* It starts at 4.30 pm will finish at 6.00 pm.



For more information contact Maggie or Helen on youcat@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Important Information from Bishop Peter

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the government and urge it to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION MONDAY 18 DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM

Prepare for the season of Christmas by joining us for the service of reconciliation. After a short liturgy of prayer, readings and preparation there is the opportunity for a personal act of act of confession with our local priests.



Gaudete Sunday

Why is one candle not like all the others?



Advent and its counterpart, Lent, are seasons of penitence. On the Advent wreath, the three purple candles mark the preparation Christians undergo while awaiting the arrival of Christ on Earth.

But, unlike our Lent, Advent is usually a happy season, full of food, parties, shopping, music and lights. So, why do we need a reminder to rejoice on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday (Latin for rejoice) by lighting a rose-coloured candle on our wreaths and having priests wear rose-coloured vestments at Mass?

Because the happiness that comes from fun and friends is not the same thing as Christian joy.

Pope Francis has talked about the difference between happiness and joy:

'To be happy is good, yet joy is something more. It's another thing, something which does not depend on external motivations, or on passing issues: it is more profound. It is a gift. To be "happy at all moments, at all cost" can, at the end, turn into superficiality and shallowness. This leaves us without Christian wisdom. All is joy ... no. Joy is something else; it is a gift from the Lord.'

If joy is a gift from the Lord, then the Lord himself is our first and greatest gift, and the only one that will never tarnish or break or fade. Gaudete Sunday reminds us that the gift has not yet arrived, but it is very near.

Adapted from <https://catholicvote.org>

Carol Concert will now be on Sunday 17 December – we hope you all will be able to attend.

THE GIVING TREE

As usual, the first Sunday in Advent will see the appearance of the SVP Giving Tree in our church. The stickers that cover it bear the name of an item needed at the Prebend Day Centre in Bedford to support the homeless and rootless. If you can help, please take some of the stickers, purchase the items named and return them to the church by **Monday 18 December**.



The items we are seeking are toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving foam and gel, disposable razors, shampoo and shower gel. We would also like men's pants and ladies' knickers, along with socks, scarves, hats and gloves. In the food line we would like some tins of corned beef, packets of biscuits and small bars of chocolate.

When buying items, please avoid expensive ones – value- and store-own brands are much better and are less likely to be stolen from the recipients; not a nice thought but a real one when we want to help those in need hang on to the few possessions they might have.

Thanks in advance for your generosity. Everything that you give will reach those in need in time for Christmas.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **21 December**, 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



The sewing group is taking a break and will start meeting again after Easter. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



Mothers' Prayers will resume in the New Year.

You are very welcome to join us to pray for your family intentions in full confidentiality. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for information. We meet fortnightly.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle Three

Celebrant: He will exult with joy over you.
He will renew you by his Love.

Deacon: Come, Lord Jesus, bring to this broken world, the love and peace of God.



Third Sunday of Advent

The Third Candle on the Wreath is Lit.

**ALL: REJOICE FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD,
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 2 and 3 December the total was £284.79, and the second collection for Home Mission Sunday was £129.36. With thanks, the Finance Committee.

Tea and coffee will be available after 9.00 am Mass. All welcome



Preparing the Church for Christmas

Dear parishioners, please come along to help with cleaning and decorating the church as we prepare for Christmas.



Tuesday 19 December at 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Many hands make light work!

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR DECEMBER – OUR DIOCESE

God our Father, in all the churches scattered throughout the world you show forth the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Through the Gospel and the Eucharist bring your people of the diocese of Northampton together in the Holy Spirit and guide us in your love. We acknowledge with deep gratitude your abundant blessings bestowed on this diocese and its people.



INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 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 10.30 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 Fr. John or another local priest to say a Mass.

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Saturday	16 December	6.00 pm	Donald Rodgers, Anniversary, RIP and The Deceased of the Weighell Family.
Sunday	17 December	9.00 am	Donna Spillane, Anniversary, RIP and The Deceased of the Rincon Family
Monday	18 December	7.30 pm	Reconciliation Service
Tuesday	19 December		No Service
Wednesday	20 December	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	21 December		No Service
Friday	22 December	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion

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 December

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am
1 st Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Bernadette Basterfield
2 nd Reading	Pat Crowe	Victoria Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Martin Stynes
Eucharistic Minister	Don Perrett	Nicky Paterson
Driver		C./J. Gallagher

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week 23 and 24 December

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am
1 st Reading	Fredrick Werrett	Ros Penn
2 nd Reading	Noreen Weighell	Ann Leatherland
Eucharistic Minister	To be advised	To be advised
Eucharistic Minister	To be advised	To be advised
Driver		