

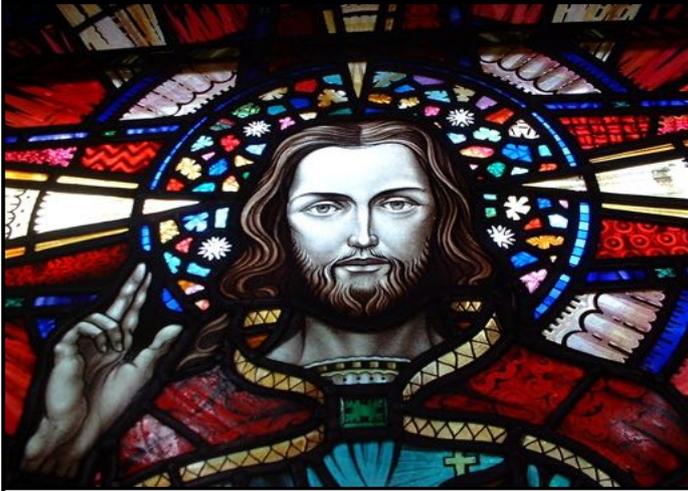


# newsletter



17 and 18 September 2016

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C



## 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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[www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)

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**Canon Bennie Noonan**, Parish Priest      [frbennie@btinternet.com](mailto:frbennie@btinternet.com), 01462 813 436

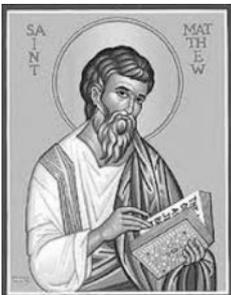
**Deacon Philip**, Pastoral Administrator      [deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk), 07711 953 926

**Suzanne Yates**, Parish Secretary      [secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)



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## 21 September – Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist



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.

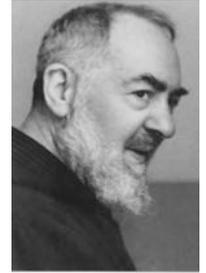
St Matthew's Gospel was written to fill a need for his fellow countrymen, both believers and unbelievers. For the former, it served as a token of his regard and as an encouragement in the trial to come, especially the danger of falling back to Judaism; for the latter, it was designed to convince them 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>

## 23 SEPTEMBER – FEAST OF ST PIO OF PIETRELCINA (1887-1968)

Francesco Forgione was in the village of Pietrelcina, north-east of Naples. He joined the Capuchins, taking the name Pius and was ordained priest in 1910. He began to experience pains and what he called 'invisible stigmata'. In 1918 he contracted double pneumonia and was sent to a monastery at San Giovanni Rotondo near Foggia, where he stayed for the rest of his life.



The stigmata on his hands and feet became visible and a wound in his side bled for the rest of his life. The Capuchins made no attempt to hide his condition. The Vatican had him examined and he had to say Mass in private for a number of years. Pio would only say he was a mystery to himself.

Padre Carmelo da Sassano, his superior, told the story of his being in two places at the one time. There was a concert one evening in the monastery, and during the intermission Padre Pio folded his arms on a chair in front of him and rested his head. No one disturbed him and when the intermission was over Padre Pio sat upright and gave his attention to the rest of the performance. Next day Padre Carmelo called to see a sick villager. He found the patient fully recovered and the family delighted, Padre Pio, they said, had visited them the night before. Padre Carmelo said that was not possible, as Padre Pio had been at the concert. But the family insisted he had come and when asked at what time, Padre Carmelo recognised it was at the time of the intermission.

Penitents came from all over the world to confess to Padre Pio. It was not always a comfortable experience. Sometimes he would reveal hidden sins to them. And if he discerned that someone was not sincerely repentant, he would shout at them to leave the confessional. This usually provoked a crisis for the penitent, who would later return to Padre Pio with true repentance.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the day he received the stigmata, while Padre Pio was saying Mass, people in the congregation noticed that the stigmata had vanished. He died the next day.

Pope John Paul II beatified him in 1999 and canonised him in 2002.

Adapted from <http://www.catholicireland.net>

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 10 and 11 September the total was £503.00; this is £47.00 less than what is needed to meet the parish running costs. With thanks, Finance Committee.

We welcome Reggie, son of Amy and Justin Hayes, who will be baptised into the Catholic community this Sunday.



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

We welcome Jack, son of Kelly and Adam May, who will be baptised into the Catholic community this Saturday.



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

### PARISH RETREAT AT BUCKDEN TOWERS

24 SEPTEMBER 2016 – 9.30 pm

closing with Mass

#### EXPLORING FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

This year's retreat is inspired by the forthcoming pilgrimage to Assisi.

**FREE** personal copy of *Glimpses of the Franciscan Way* by Mark Davis and Francis Cotter to help guide our day. **BOOK NOW** to avoid disappointment, numbers are limited. Tickets £12.00



### Sacred Heart Flitwick 100 CLUB

The latest draw took place on 11 September and the lucky winners were first, **Kathleen Mapp** second **Carmel Gallagher** and third **Mary Wooldridge**.

### Bill Odell, RIP

Please remember in your prayers Bill Odell, a long-term parishioner, who died recently. There will be a Funeral Service at Bedford Crematorium on Monday **19 September**. All our sympathy and prayers go to Bill's family.



## SVP ANNUAL APPEAL 2016 THIS WEEKEND

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 is **this weekend, 17 and 18 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.

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

## CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **21 September** 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654 for information.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **26 September** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For more information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



## ADVANCE NOTICE AFFECTING OUR PARKING

We recently played host to a National Grid (Gas) community-briefing event. The purpose was to inform the residents of Hornes End Road, which is close to the church, that their obsolete gas main will be replaced. The works are to take place from **Monday 26 September** for **two weeks**.

The works will affect the area for parking that our parishioners use for Saturday and Sunday. We remind you to take **EXTRA** care when parking at all times, but especially for these two weeks. We will advise you of any change in the scheduling.

## MOTHERS' PRAYERS will

meet for a Fellowship Meal on Tuesday, **27 September** at 7.30 pm. Ring Sue Barley for more information on 01525 634186.



There will be a second collection next weekend for Walsingham. This is a national collection – see poster in foyer.

## CATECHISTS NEEDED

If you are interested in becoming a catechist for our sacramental preparation programme please contact: Deacon Philip at [deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk) or Diana Page at [diana.p@ntlworld.com](mailto:diana.p@ntlworld.com)



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

## McMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – PLEASE COME ALONG

This will be held at Sacred Heart church Friday **30 September** immediately after 9.30 am Mass.

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



Raffle tickets will be on sale after all Masses on **24 and 25 September**, for those unable to attend on the day to contribute to this good cause.

## CANON BENNIE'S HOLIDAY

Canon Bennie is on his annual holidays at the moment. Fr. Jay will be returning to Rome on Monday after saying Mass. See back of newsletter for Mass and service times.

Don't forget the £1 in the bottle for the St Francis Suite!



## Circle of Prayer for September – Students, Teachers and Educators

Lord, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. You sent us your Son to teach us that true wisdom comes from you alone. Send your Spirit upon students, teachers and educators and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learnt.



## 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](mailto: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 Tom Cahill 07931 700 646.

### 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	17 September	6.00 pm	Tina Stanyer, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday	18 September	11.00 am	Margaret Lydon, Anniversary, RIP
Monday	19 September	9.30 am	Liam Spillane, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	20 September		No Service
Wednesday	21 September	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	22 September		No Service
Friday	23 September	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](mailto:suz_yates@btinternet.com)

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 17 and 18 September		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Angela Bartlett	Dennis Horner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Alison Braniff	Angela Turner
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Wilson	Anne Gadsden
Driver		William Doyle
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 24 and 25 September		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Suzanne Yates	Ros Penn
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Maggie Dullaghan	Brendan Spillane
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Pat King	C./H. Davies
Driver		Ros Penn