

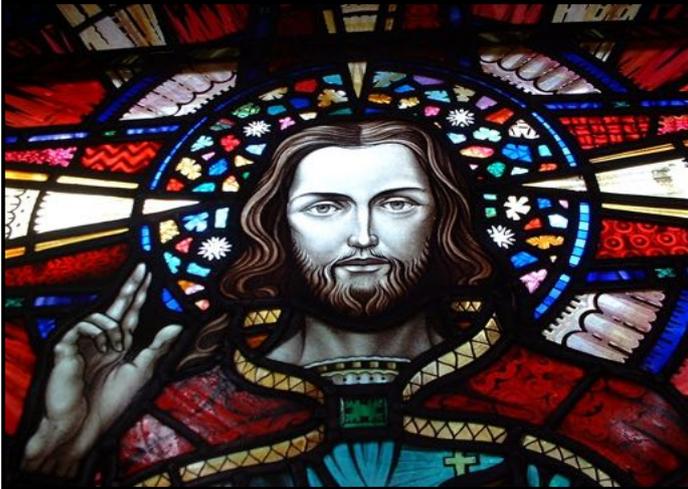


newsletter



17 and 18 December 2016

4th Sunday of Advent – 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

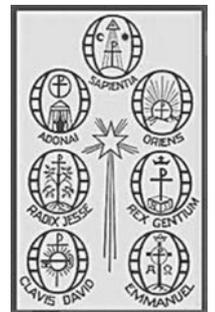


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The 'O' Antiphons

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), and O Emmanuel; also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah looking forward to the coming of the Messiah.



Saturday, 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.

Sunday, 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'

Monday, 19 December

O stock 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

Tuesday, 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.

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Wednesday, 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.

Thursday, 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.

Tuesday, 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.

Adapted from <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk>

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE This Sunday 18 December at 3.00 pm.

This is a traditional carol service with readings and carols and a presentation of 2016 events and looking forward to 2017. This will be followed by refreshments.



Preparing the Church for Christmas

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



Come on **Tuesday 20 December** at 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Many hands make light work!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday 14 January
9.30 am to 11.00 am**

Join us for our regular men's breakfast event. Bacon sandwiches, conversation, friendship and an opportunity to see Deacon Philip's Camino presentation. (Suggested donation only £1.)

Sacred Heart Flitwick 100 CLUB

The latest draw took place on 11 December and the lucky winners were first, **Anne McCann** second **Frank McKenna** and third **Jane Crow**.

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 10 and 11 December the total was £509.39; this is £40.61 less than needed to meet the parish running costs. The second collection, for Home Mission Sunday was £218.65. With thanks, Finance Committee.

Matthew 1: 18-24

In today's Gospel we hear of the announcement of the birth of Christ. The two stories of the announcement of and the actual birth of Jesus are different in Matthew to those of Luke. Whereas in Luke, the annunciation is given to Mary, here, Joseph is the central figure. He is already aware of the potential disgrace as his betrothed is pregnant outside of marriage. Being a kind man, he had decided to break off the engagement with as little fuss as possible. Then he received a visit from the angel of the Lord who announced the fact that Mary had conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that the Virgin Birth was the direct result of the creative power of God.



Joseph was to take Mary as his wife and when the child was born, he was to be given the name of Jesus, which means 'God is Salvation'.

Matthew quotes Isaiah 7:14 as support for the annunciation, and although the quotation originally had nothing to do with the prophecy of a messiah, Christians down the ages have seen in the words the summary of God becoming man.

The Virgin's child will be called Emmanuel, that is, 'God with us'. This is the same thought as John's 'word becoming flesh and dwelling among us'.

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

ANNUAL QUIET DAY

**Saturday 28 January
11.30 am to 3.30 pm**

In the footsteps of Jesus

A Journey through the Holy Land

Pop in for as little as an hour throughout the day. Tea and coffee with conversation will be on tap all day. There will be six spaces for quiet prayer and reflection.



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 for information.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **9 January** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For more information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



BOOK CLUB

DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Thursday 9 March 2017
at 7.30 pm

This will be at Ros Penn's home. New members made very welcome and we will chat about our next book, *The Fisherman* by Larry Huntsperger.



Christmas Raffle

Tickets for the Christmas raffle will be on sale after both Masses this weekend. The prizes will be drawn at the carol service this Sunday. Tickets are £1 a strip and there are eight wonderful prizes to be won.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet again in the New Year. New members will be made very welcome; ring Sue Barley for more information on 01525 634186.



SUNDAY TEAS – ADVANCE WARNING!

Please note there will be no teas after Mass on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Seasons' Greetings to all our customers and teamakers!!



Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle Four

Celebrant: He will feed his flock with the power of the Lord,

With the majesty of the name of his God.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Deacon: They will live secure, to the ends of the lands, He himself shall be peace.

The Fourth Candle on the Wreath is lit.

**ALL: COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS,
COME LIGHT OF THE WORLD, BRING US PEACE.**

THANK YOU

Just a quick line of thanks from the SVP and the Homeless of Bedford; the Giving Tree has raised over **800** items so far this year which is really amazing and at the time of writing the last Sunday has not been reached. Thank you so much for your kindness. We will publish a final figure after Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2016 AT SACRED HEART

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve	7.00 pm	Children's and Family Mass
	9.00 pm	Midnight Mass
Sunday 25 December Christmas Day	11.00 am	Mass during the Day

Circle of Prayer for December Refugees and Migrants

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees, migrants and victims of war. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need.



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

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 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	17 December	6.00 pm	Donald Rodgers, memorial for Christmas, RIP
Sunday	18 December	11.00 am	For the recovery of those suffering from addiction
Monday	19 December	9.30 am	Kathleen Atkins, Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday	20 December		No Service
Wednesday	21 December	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	22 December		No Service
Friday	23 December	9.30 am	Intentions of the Baronak family

Newsletter copy deadline – Tuesday midday. Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates; 01525 840 661; suz_yates@btinternet.com

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 17 and 18 December			
Mass	6.00 pm		11.00 am
1 st Reading	Suzanne Yates		Brendan Spillane
2 nd Reading	Mary Brown		Brendan Spillane
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh		Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Adrian Hamilton		Grace McKenna
Driver			Louis Chadwick
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 24 and 25 December			
Mass	7.00 pm	9.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reader	Alison Braniff	Kate Mansford	Reader Required
2 nd Reader	Noelette Hanley	Ann Leatherland	Reader Required
Eucharistic Minister		Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister		John Flanagan	Minister Required
Driver		Noreen Weighell	