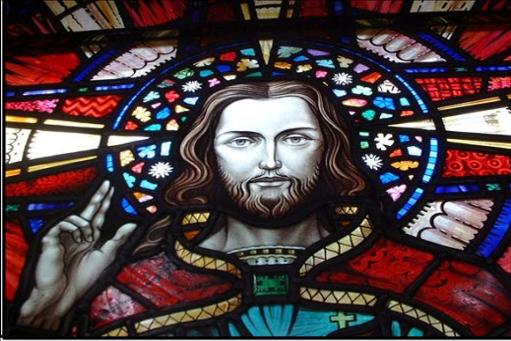


newsletter



21 January 2018

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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



Follow us on Facebook

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Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP

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sacredheartlb@btinternet.com, 01525 372 321

Parish Deacon, **Deacon Philip Pugh**

deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926

Pastoral Administrator, **Suzanne Yates**

secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 14 January the total was £448.87. With thanks, Finance Committee.

The Feast of the Conversion of St Paul – 25 January

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in one experience, his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: '...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment' (Acts 8:3). Now he himself was entered, possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal, being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Saviour.

One sentence determined his theology: 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting' (Acts 9:5). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people, the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfilment of all he had been blindly pursuing. From then on, his only work was to 'present everyone perfect in Christ'. Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ, the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new. So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do.

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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for

Mass	This Sunday, 21 January	Next Sunday, 28 January
1 st Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Noreen Weighell
2 nd Reading	Alison Braniff	Catherine Davies
Eucharistic	Chris Till	Carols Rincon
Eucharistic	Helen Wilson	Myriam Rincon
Driver	William Doyle	Kate Mansford

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	21 January	9.00 am	Private Intentions
Tuesday	23 January	9.30 am	Intentions of the Kinsela Family
		11.30 am	Funeral Service for James Bunker
Wednesday	24 January	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion with Exposition
Friday	26 January	10.00 am	Service of the Word and Communion as Fr. John has to attend a funeral

THE CALL OF THE FIRST APOSTLES

Today's Gospel is from Mark 1:14-20. 'The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News'. These are the first words of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Jesus calls for people to change the direction of their lives for this is what the word 'repent' means; to undergo a transformation of character. They were to have faith in the Good News that the Kingdom of God had arrived. It was present in the lives of men and women.

Some would claim that the kingdom of God is found in belonging to the Church while others say that it goes beyond membership of the Church. Certainly it is to be found in people who have turned their backs on the negative and destructive forces of fear, selfishness and greed and have embraced the virtues of peace, selflessness, faith, love and service of both God and all people.

The first action of Jesus was to call disciples. The first four were the fishermen, Simon, his brother Andrew, James and his brother John. In Mark's account the four responded immediately to the authority of Jesus. Disciples are still called today. The word 'vocation' means 'calling'. Those with a vocation to the priesthood or religious life are required to make special sacrifices and commit themselves to Christ. Vocation must also be seen in a wider sense. Every Christian has a vocation which is to be expressed through different aspects of life. For example, it is expressed through marriage and also through work and service of others. Christianity always involves the fulfilling of vocation.

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

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR JANUARY CHRISTIAN UNITY

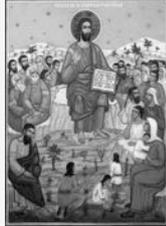
Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who bear your name and seek to serve you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love one another in humility. May we who have been reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under one shepherd. Amen.

ANNUAL QUIET DAY
Saturday 27 January
11.00 1m till 3.00 pm

What is a Quiet Day?

Our quiet day is an opportunity to have a time away from the bustle of everyday life without having to travel too far. It provides an opportunity for us to regain some balance between doing and being. In the familiar setting of our church, you can make this personal time of an hour or more, to recharge your spiritual batteries in the depth of the winter.

A number of 'bases' around the church will guide you through reflections on the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount.



The bases are arranged around the church. You are encouraged to visit the bases in the order that will be set out on the day. It will be a quiet and reflective time in the church and we hope you enjoy the spaces as a pilgrim during your visit.

Sacred Heart - 100 CLUB

Over the last two years your support for this venture has so far raised £1,627. Well done and many thanks.

Our new year starts **1 February** when subscriptions are due for renewal. Those paid by Standing Order should be automatically renewed, and those who paid by cheque or cash should let Peter Leatherland have their subscription. Full details will be sent to all concerned.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS



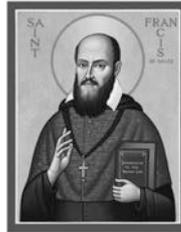
The next baptism preparation classes will be held on Saturdays **27 January and 3 February**, starting at 10.00 am for one hour in the St Francis Suite. The parish encourages all new parents asking for baptism of their child, to attend. We also welcome parents who may wish to renew their preparation for baptism as their families grow larger. Asking for baptism for your child is the start of your child's sacramental journey in the Church. The sessions look at your role in the development of your child's faith, what you ask of the Church and the promises you make on behalf of your child. We look forward to seeing you and your family. Godparents and grandparents are welcome to join us.

Youth Alpha Programme will continue on Saturday 27 January with the question *Why and how do we pray?* It starts at 4.30 pm. and finish by 6.00 pm. For more information contact Maggie or Helen on youcat@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

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

Feast of St Francis de Sales
(1567-1622) – 24 January

He was born near Annécy, in Savoy, studied the law, and was ordained to the priesthood despite the opposition of his father. His first mission was to evangelise the people of his home district (the Chablais), who had gone over to Calvinism. Always in danger of his life from hostile Calvinists, he preached with such effectiveness that after four years most of the people had returned to the Church. He was then appointed bishop of Geneva, and spent the rest of his life reforming and reorganising the diocese, and in caring for the souls of his people by preaching and spiritual guidance.



St Francis taught that we can all attain a devout and spiritual life, whatever our position in society, holiness is not reserved for monks and hermits alone. His wrote 'religious devotion does not destroy: it perfects' and his spiritual counsel is dedicated to making people more holy by making them more themselves. In his preaching against Calvinism he was driven by love rather than a desire to win, so much so, that it was a Calvinist minister who said 'If we honoured anyone as a saint, I know of no one since the days of the Apostles more worthy of it than this man'.

St Francis is the patron saint of writers and journalists, who would do well to imitate his love and his moderation: as he said, 'whoever wants to preach effectively must preach with love.'

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

JAMES RICHARD BUNKER, RIP



Please remember James Bunker in your prayers. His funeral will be held on **Tuesday 23 January at 11.30 am.** All our sympathy and prayers go to James's family.

We welcome Francis, the son of Mary and Keiron McCafferty, who was baptised into the Catholic community on Saturday.



We also welcome Jack, son of Colette and Robin Lamb who was baptised into the Catholic community on Saturday.

We ask the parish to pray for them and their family, and we ask for all God's blessings on their journey of faith.

Please keep this date in your diaries **SATURDAY 16 JUNE AT 2.00 PM** at the Sacred Heart Church, Flitwick for a pre-pilgrimage get together.

Information

CONFESSION

Confession will be at 8.40 am on Sunday and at 9.45 am on Friday.

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

<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 at 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.

Tea and coffee will be available after Mass on Sunday. All welcome.



Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday, **29 January** 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.



The sewing group will start again after Easter. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will be meet on **31 January.** Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

