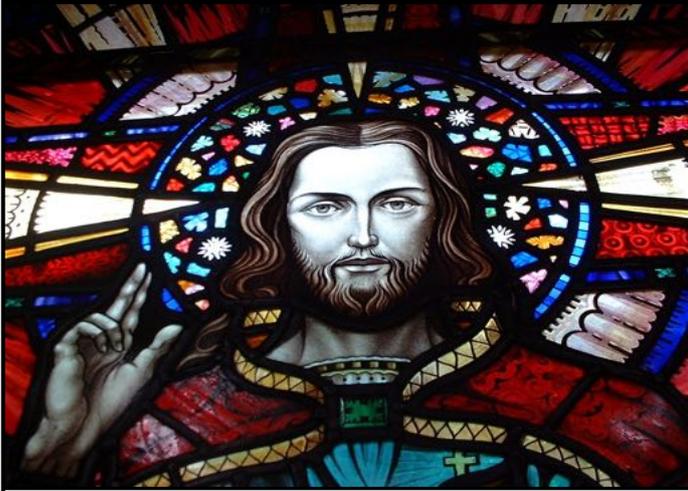


newsletter



20 and 21 May 2017

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 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



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Canon Bennie Noonan, Parish Priest frbennie@btinternet.com, 01462 813 436

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The Acts of the Apostles

The first reading today is taken from the Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17.

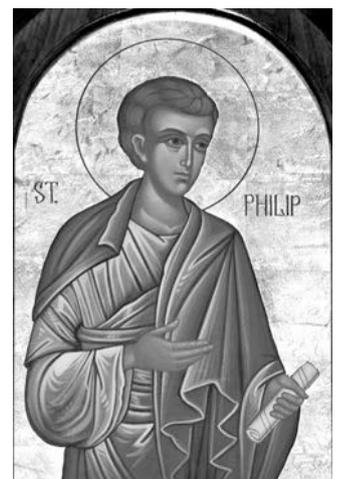
The Acts of the Apostles tells how, mainly through the zeal of Paul, the Gospel message travelled from Jerusalem to the centre of the empire, Rome. It all began with the Christian community in Jerusalem slowly moving out into the nearby territories.

Last week we heard how Philip, one of the first seven deacons, was ordained. Today, his preaching to the Samaritans is recorded. Not only was his preaching effective but it also resulted in people being freed from demonic possession and others being miraculously healed.

When the news of Philip's activity reached Jerusalem, Peter and John were sent to join him.

Luke records the surprising fact that the Samaritans who had been baptised by Philip had not received the Holy Spirit. They had been baptised only in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The matter was put right when Peter and John laid hands on these newly baptised converts. Perhaps this is the earliest reference we have to the sacrament of Confirmation.



Adapted from *The Word of God, Year A Luke's Gospel* by Robin Cooper

Feast of St Bede – 25 May (673-735)

Bede was born in the north of England, near the monastery of Wearmouth. He joined that monastery, and spent all his life there or at Jarrow, teaching and writing.



He was the outstanding ecclesiastical author of his time. He wrote: commentaries on scripture; an ecclesiastical history of the English people, a unique resource for much of early English history; the first martyrology (collection of saints' lives) to be compiled on historical principles. He was also the first known writer of English prose, though this has not survived. He died at Jarrow on 25 May 735, and taught and worked until the last moments of his life, which are narrated by Cuthbert in today's Office of Readings. He is venerated as the 'light of the Church' in the Dark Ages, and as a forerunner of the 8th-and 9th-century renaissance of the Western Church.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

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



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parish Pastoral Council invite you to their annual general meeting which will be held in the parish room between 7.30 and 8.00 pm on

Thursday 25 May.

This is an opportunity for you to meet the members of this group and raise any questions you have about our work for the parish.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 10 JUNE 2017

This year we have booked a coach for the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham. We arrive in time for Mass with Bishop Peter at 12 midday. At 3.00 pm there will be a short procession along the pilgrim route from the Chapel of Reconciliation to the priory grounds, where there will be a short service. The coach will leave at 8.00 am and we hope to return by 6.00 pm. You will need to bring a packed lunch. The cost will be £30. Please pay Deacon Philip by the 4 June at the latest.



PENTECOST IN THE PARK

*Amphill and Flitwick
Churches Together*

Near the Hub in Amphill Park

Sunday 4 June

2.30 pm – service at 3.15 pm

Celebrate the Church's birthday

Children's activities from 2.30 pm

Birthday cake for all



All the children who have made their First Holy Communion over the last four weeks will receive their First Holy Communion certificates at 11.00 Mass this Sunday.

RETIRING COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection next weekend of **27 and 28 May.**

This collection is a contribution to mass media's evangelisation campaign through television, radio, the Internet and special projects in the Catholic press. This is an annual collection taken up in the diocese. Gift Aid envelopes are available. Please be as generous as you can.



BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS

The next baptism preparation classes will be held on Saturdays **27 May and 3 June**, 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.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **7 June**. 30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

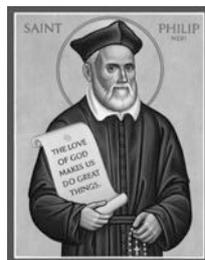


The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **22 May** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



FEAST OF ST PHILIP NERI – 26 MAY

St Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515. He made a life for himself in Rome, becoming a priest at the age of thirty-five, and was known as one who had a particular a, using unconventional ways to challenge the vain young men of the Eternal City. Once a man came to Philip and asked him if he thought wearing a hair shirt was a good penance. Philip replied that it would be a good penance if he wore the hair shirt outside his nice clothes.



The saint's best-known achievement is that he founded the Roman Congregation of the Oratory. Key to his success was that he used humour as his medicine. He made others laugh, going around Rome with half his beard shaved off, doing humorous dances or setting penances for young men that involved them making fools of themselves in public.

He had a phenomenal capacity for love – his heart would hammer so strongly against his chest that it shook furniture. His facility to love so greatly was received on the eve of Pentecost, 1544, when Philip saw a vision of a ball of fire enter through his mouth and go to his heart. Straightaway he was filled with an intense divine love and fell to the floor, crying out, 'Enough, enough, Lord, I can bear no more!'

St Philip Neri is the patron saint of joy, and with this in mind, he could become a powerful intercessor for people who have periods of feeling down. We might pray to St Philip Neri that he inspires us with the ability to cherish others and to be filled with the joy of love. Perhaps most acutely for our selfie age, he could become an intercessor for people who agonise over how they look, who spend all their free time finding flattering selfies to post on Facebook, and fear that that narcissism is beginning to rule their lives.

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

MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet on **5 June**. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Meetings are at 80 George St, Maulden. Contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.



MASS FOR THE SICK

This year's mass for the sick will be celebrated on Friday **23 June** at 2.00 pm. Once again the SVP are organising this very special afternoon. Canon Bennie, assisted by Deacon Philip, will be celebrating the mass during which the anointing of the sick will take place. Everyone is very welcome to attend. Refreshments will be offered after Mass by the SVP in the parish room. If you need help with transport or any further information, please contact John Flanagan on 01525 406 810



CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR MAY – VOCATIONS

O God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe. I join him in praying for labourers for your harvest. May your Holy Spirit inspire men and women to continue his mission through your priesthood, diaconate, religious life and lay ministry. May this same Spirit make known your will for my life.



INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and THIS 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 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	20 May	6.00 pm	Martin Stynes (senior) Anniversary, RIP
Sunday	21 May	11.00 am	Intentions of the Johnson Family
Monday	22 May	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	23 May		No Service
Wednesday	24 May	7.30 pm	Private Intentions
Thursday	25 May		No Service
Friday	26 May	9.30 am	Deceased of the Parish

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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 20 and 21 May		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Catherine Davies
2 nd Reading	Michael Burgess	Una McAlinden
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Pat King	Nicky Paterson
Driver		C./J. Gallagher
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 27 and 28 May		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Mary Brown	Kate Mansford
2 nd Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Pat Rees
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	John Flanagan	Clare Bevan
Driver		Louis Chadwick