

# newsletter



20 and 21 December 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B



## Times of Mass

**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  
Tel: 01525 715 109, [www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)



Saturday	20 December	6.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Eileen O'Donnell, RIP
Sunday	21 December	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Martina Boland, RIP
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	22 December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion
Tuesday	23 December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	No Service
Wednesday	24 December	6.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Christmas Family Mass
		9.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Christmas Midnight Mass
Thursday	25 December	10.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Mass of Christmas Day
Friday	26 December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion

## **ADVENT ACTIVITIES AT SACRED HEART**

This Advent there will be a number of activities helping us to prepare for Christmas. These are some of the key activities:

- 21 December – Parish Carol Service and Review of our Parish year
- 22 December – Church Cleaning

Information about all of these is included in the newsletter each week.



Christmas Masses this year are as follows

### **Christmas Eve**

6.00 pm – Mass of Christmas (for Families and Children)

9.00 pm – Mass of Christmas (Midnight Mass)

### **Christmas Day**

10.30 am – Mass of Christmas Day

*Deacon Philip writes ...*

### **Looking into the Heart of the Crib**

It's almost a relief to get to be within touching distance of Christmas Day. Most of the preparations are over and we are gazing into the familiar scene of the Nativity of Our Lord.

Advent has been guiding us to the moment when we can look afresh on the Incarnation of our Redeemer as a human person. More than that of course, Jesus is fully human and fully God, a mystery over which we need to take time to ponder.

The mystery of Christ's coming is not like one of those Poirot or Miss Marple thrillers we see repeated every Christmas on TV, where we eventually remember who did it! This mystery is one that calls us to re-assess our response to God every time we contemplate it. That is what the message of Advent – urging us to wait joyfully – and Christmas itself is all about. Jesus came to earth once and for all, He called us to recognise that He is the embodiment of love and peace in our lives.

Spend just a few moments looking anew at the figure of the child of Jesus holding open His arms to embrace us. Plan a new type of resolution for the New Year that will be about making that kind of love and acceptance a reality in your life.

O Come, O come Emmanuel... 'God with us'



## **INFORMATION**

### **CONFESSIONS**

Confessions have been suspended for the present, please contact Deacon Philip for information on 07780 687 452.

### **PRAYER LINE**

Please ring for intercessory prayer on 01525 634 186. We have some wonderful answers to prayers. Be assured of full confidentiality.

### **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 7.45pm. If you would like 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 Pat Rees on 01525 713 547.

### **CARDS, GIFTS, etc.**

Are available for sale in Sacred Heart church after 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses. All are priced. Please put money in the repository box in the porch or see Clare Bevan – contact on 01525 403 589.

### **LITTLE 'UNS**

Meet every Friday 10.15 am–11.45 am in term time, in the church hall. This is a group for babies and pre-schoolers. For further information please contact Catherine Bevan Dunn on 01525 862 253.

### **CHURCH NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

<http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk>

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. Last week the total was £694.96; this is £144.96 more than the amount we need each week to meet the parish running costs, and will help us to build up a contingency fund.

With thanks, Fr. Denis.

**Sunday Latin Mass:** A Latin Mass is celebrated at 5.00 pm on Sundays. The Mass is from the missal of 1962 and fulfils the Sunday obligation.

### THE POST-COMMUNION GROUP

The post-Communion group runs generally every Sunday, excluding school holidays. Our next meeting is, today, **25 January**. We meet in church after the 9.00 am Mass.



**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** meet fortnightly and our next meeting is on Tuesday **13 January** at 7.30pm at 80 George St., Maulden. Please ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for more information or just to ask for prayer for your intentions.



### THE PRE-COMMUNION GROUP

The pre-Communion group runs generally every Sunday, excluding school holidays. We meet in church after the 9.00 am Mass from 9.45 am till 10.30 am. For more details visit the website [http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk/child and youth.html](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk/child%20and%20youth.html)



### CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Our next meeting is on **7 January** 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm, as we will not be meeting in August. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654 for information.



### THANK YOU

Once again, the SVP want to thank you for your magnificent response to the Giving Tree Appeal. Every year you give so much to support the homeless and rootless in Bedford and this year has been no exception.



Items are still coming in, but over **900** items have already been donated and all of these have been taken to the centre in Prebend Street for distribution. We will publish a final figure after Christmas.

May God bless you for your continued generosity.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **12 January** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. Bring your sewing, knitting, crochet or whatever, and join like-minded people. For more information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.

Tea and coffee will be available after 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses today. All welcome.



**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 20 and 21 December

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Adrian Hamilton	Darren Campbell	Martin Paterson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Michael Burgess	Siobhan Campbell	Pauline Chambers
Eucharistic	Helen Burgess	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Pat King	Jane Crow	Nicky Paterson
Driver		Kate Mansford	

#### Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 27 and 28 December

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Christine Jackson	Noelette Hanley	Dennis Horner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Angela Bartlett	Dermott Whelan	Una McAlinden
Eucharistic	Noreen Weighell	Carlos Rincon	Anne Gadsden
Eucharistic	Helen Wilson	Myriam Rincon	Grace McKenna
Driver		David Toland	





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### CONFIRMATION

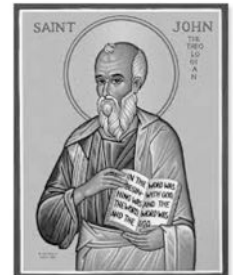
The next Confirmation ceremony will take place in this parish in June/July 2016. The Confirmation preparation programme will begin in November 2015. Deacon Philip would be grateful if you would let him know if you have any children likely to take part in the programme, so we can get an idea of numbers. Contact him at [deaconphilippugh@gmail.com](mailto:deaconphilippugh@gmail.com)



We welcome Fr. Francis Thadathil who will be with us from 20 December to 4 January to provide cover for Fr. Denis while he is unwell.

### 27 December – Feast of St John the Evangelist

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were nicknamed by Jesus ‘the sons of thunder.’ John is involved in many of the central events of Jesus’ life, including the Transfiguration, the Crucifixion, and the discovery of the Resurrection. He is ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved’ and the one to whom he confided the care of his mother Mary.



He is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles; later he was exiled to the island of Patmos. He is said to have died at Ephesus.

He wrote a Gospel, three Epistles, and the Apocalypse.

### 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 **Monday 22 December** at 7.30 pm after confession. We look forward to seeing you.

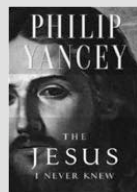


**Many hands make light work!**

### BOOK CLUB

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday **22 January 2015** at 7.30 pm, at Ros Penn’s home. New members made very welcome and we will chat about this book, *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey. (Refreshments will be served.)



### Annual Carol Service and Christingle Sunday 21 December at 3.00 pm

Come along with your whole family to enjoy the carols, readings and poems exploring the coming of Our Lord. We will review of the parish for the year of 2014 and there will traditional Christingles to be distributed.



### Christmas Raffle

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses on 20 and 21 December. The raffle will be drawn at our carol service **21 December**. Proceeds will go to church funds.

### Circle of Prayer for December – Refugees and Migrants

Heavenly Father, no one is stranger to You, and no one is ever far from Your loving care. By Your grace, help us to welcome Your children who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence and war; to banish fear from our hearts that we may embrace each one of them as our own brothers and sisters, with love and generosity, while responding to their many needs. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who too was a refugee and migrant, who travelled to another land searching for a home.

