

newsletter



21 and 22 January 2017

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – 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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25 January – Feast of the Conversion of St Paul

This feast concludes the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity– an eight-day event that has been celebrated by the international Christian community since 1908. St Paul's conversion caused him to become a great advocate for Christian unity, for which he worked so tirelessly, and the Church now remembers and celebrates that wonderful event every year.

Paul had spent the early years of his life studying in Jerusalem and persecuting Christians for going against the Temple. He was even a part of the stoning to death of St Stephen, the Church's first martyr. Sometime around 35 or 36 AD, however, he met Christ on his way to Damascus, who asked why he was persecuting Christ, and told him to go into the city where he would be told what to do. At that point, Paul was blinded for three days, and was taken into Damascus where the Lord told Ananias, a disciple, to go to Paul and heal him. At that point, 'something like scales fell from Paul's eyes', he was healed and he became baptised, and started preaching about Jesus in the synagogues.



His sudden switch confused the Jews, who subsequently grew angry with him and tried to kill him, several times. Paul nevertheless continued preaching to them as well as to the Gentiles. His conversion, dangerous though it may have been for St Paul, had a hugely positive effect on the life of the Church. He became one of the Church's great evangelisers, helping to bring many people into the Church. While most saints have feast days based on their date of death, St Paul is one of the only saints who have a feast day commemorating conversion. This conversion shows that anyone can be forgiven and brought to a life with Christ, even those who previously were on the completely opposite side of Christianity. It is an event that the Church wants to remember and celebrate because of its great importance for Christians everywhere.

Adapted from <http://www.aquinasandmore.com>

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

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 re-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. He wrote that '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

Fr. Jay, Fr. Francis and Fr. Prince who have all offered Mass in our parish over the last few years belong to the Congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales (MSFS/Fransalians). It was founded by Fr. Peter Mary Mermier (born 28 August 1790 in Savoy) for the spiritual renewal of the people who were in deep spiritual crisis and religious indifference caused by the French Revolution.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS

The next baptism preparation classes will be held on Saturdays **28 January and 4 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.



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18 to 25 January – the octave of St Peter and St Paul.

There are many reasons to celebrate this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. As the resources take our focus to Germany we remember especially the 500th Anniversary of the German Reformation and the call to reconciliation.

This is a time of great change and uncertainty around the world as we confront difficulties such as climate change, migration of people across the planet and conflict spreading in many places. In Europe we see many of these issues finding expressions on our streets and these are indeed a cause for prayers for unity.

We need to pray for a greater vision of a united Church. With so many global and local issues confronting all of us every day, the churches' witness needs to be strong and clear in its call for unity. We need to be resolute in standing together to witness to a Christ-centred church, in standing with those on the margins who have no voice and no power. Prayers for unity need to become daily prayers, so that we deepen Christ's life in each one of us.

I hope you have a rich and meaningful experience of prayer during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Bob Fyffe, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

The WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
The ecumenical service will be held here this Sunday **22 January** at 3.00 pm.
All welcome.

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 will be on tap. There will be six spaces for quiet prayer, reflection and conversation.

BURNS NIGHT

Unfortunately we have had very few people booking to attend the Burns' Supper so the decision has been made **to cancel it**. If you have paid for tickets please see Deacon Philip or Suzanne Yates to get your money back.



Vacancy – Diocesan Representative for The Medaille Trust 16 hours per week

The Medaille trust was founded in 2006 to raise awareness of the plight of trafficked men, women and children, to provide relief through safe housing, opportunities for physical and psychological healing and rehabilitation.

The trust is now looking for a Northampton diocese representative with sympathy for such a charity who has good people skills, the ability to make presentations in schools and churches, help raise awareness and achieve sustainable funding.

For a full job description and an application pack, please visit their website, www.medaille-trust.org.uk or email recruitment@medaille-trust.org.uk. **Closing date is 30 January 2017.**

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 14 and 15 January the total was £477.75; this is £72.25 less than what is needed. The second collection for worthy causes was £261.50. With thanks, Finance Committee.

**BOOK CLUB
DATE OF NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY 9 MARCH
AT 7.30 PM**

In the Home of Ros Penn
New members made
welcome and we will chat
about *The Fisherman: A
Novel* by Larry Huntsperger.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is
on **1 February**, 7.30
pm till 9.30 pm.

Contact Nicky Paterson on
01525 750 654.



The next meeting of
the Sewing Group
will be on **23 January** from
2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For
more information contact
Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS

will meet on **23
January**. We meet
from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm.

This meeting will be at **5
Elm Drive, Silsoe**. Contact
Sue Barley on 01525 634
186.



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

Sacred Heart - 100 CLUB

End of year one, you have raised the sum of £814 for the parish. Well done and many thanks. Our new year starts **1 February** when subscriptions are due for renewal. Those who 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.

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.



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	21 January	6.00 pm	Hughie Devlin, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday	22 January	11.00 am	Thanksgiving Mass for our Team of Parish Drivers
Monday	23 January	9.30 am	Intentions of Pat Boyle
Tuesday	24 January		No Service
Wednesday	25 January	7.30 pm	Private Intentions
Thursday	26 January		No Service
Friday	27 January	9.30 am	Bernard Merry, Anniversary, RIP

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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 21 and 22 January		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Noelette Hanley
2 nd Reading	Angela Bartlett	Martin Brennan
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	C./M. Rincon	Anne Gadsden
Driver		C./J. Gallagher
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 28 and 29 January		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Mary Brown	Ann Leatherland
2 nd Reading	Michael Burgess	Pauline Chambers
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Burgess	Nicky Paterson
Driver		Louis Chadwick