

# newsletter



21 and 22 March 2015

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, 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

Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP  
Tel: 01525 715 109, [www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)



## Times of Mass

Saturday	21 March	6.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church Private Intentions
Sunday	22 March	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church Gentile and Derek Rathbone, RIP
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church Private Intentions
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	23 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church Service of the Word and Communion
Tuesday	24 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church No Service
Wednesday	25 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	26 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church No Service
Friday	27 March	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church Service of the Word and Communion

## Report on AGM of Parish Management Group/ Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Management Group annual general meeting was held on 12 March. It was encouraging to have parishioners attend and participate actively in the discussions. Hugh Davis from the Finance Group and Anne Gadsden our representative to the Pastoral Area attended.

Deacon Philip thanked Chris McMellon for his contribution to the PMG and Siobhan McGrath was welcomed as the new chair and Tim Basterfield as a new member of the team. John Flanagan agreed to remain on the PMG as the SVP representative. The other members of the PMG are Fr. Denis, Martin Brennan, Helen Burgess, Eamonn Diver, Maggie Dullaghan, Nicky Paterson, Deacon Philip and Suzanne Yates.

To reflect the pastoral focus of the group (Formation, Community and Resources) it was agreed to change the name of the PMG to Parish Pastoral Council.

Discussion followed and covered; the annual report which was printed and shared at all Masses on the previous weekend, *Feedback on the Future*; and the financial challenges.

*If you are new to the parish please contact the parish priest – details above.*

*Fr. Denis writes ...*

Not surprisingly, nine months before Christmas the Church wants us, to celebrate on 25 March the conception of the child Jesus in the womb of His mother, Mary. The Church wants to remind us that the angel, the messenger, is bringing us



good news, the ultimate Good News. Indeed when the child is born, St Luke has another angel appearing to the shepherds and spelling it out: 'I bring you news

of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.' But, if anything, the news as we hear it in the Annunciation story is tinged more with fear and anxiety than joy and happiness. The situation is not right. Mary and Joseph have not yet sealed their relationship so the news does not make sense. God's messenger has to give reassurance and open Mary's mind and heart to the miracle that will transform not only her own life but also those of all her brothers and sisters in the human family.

The invitation to Mary and all of us is to see things in a new way, to recognise God present among His people, Emmanuel (God-with-us). This is the paradox of the whole gospel: there is good news, news that calls for rejoicing and happiness, but it can be understood only when we grasp the fact that we are not in control. The angel calls us to stand in awe before the mystery of it all, acknowledging the fact that we do not have the answers. The revelation continues in the most unlikely ways and circumstances, reminding us that nothing is impossible to God. Like Mary, we are often at a loss to understand how or why, but we are able to join in her act of faith and accept that we are servants and handmaids of the Lord, echoing her testimony: 'Let what you have said be done to me.'

## 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 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. For 14 and 15 March the total was £704.01; this is more than the amount needed 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.

## Planned Giving / Gift Aid

Boxes of offertory envelopes will be available for collection this weekend **21/22 March**.



Many thanks to those parishioners that have elected to make their offerings by standing order.

This really does help us in reducing the amount of cash that has to be handled each week, and we are still encouraging you to change to this method.

With around 55 individuals/families now offering by standing order we now are able to reduce the number of offertory envelope boxes required.

Boxes will be arranged in alphabetical order and you will notice that they are numbered from 1 onwards.

## Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer and have not as yet made a Gift Aid Declaration, we would request that you seriously consider completing a simple form. This will enable the parish to receive an additional 25p for every £1 offered.

John Fletcher will be available after all Masses next weekend to provide copies of the forms and further information on any of the planned giving methods. He can also be contacted on Tel: 01525 715 309 or by email [plannedgiving@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:plannedgiving@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)

A selection of Easter cards is now available in the repository. All have the price marked on them, please put the money in the box at the back of the church.



**Newsletter copy deadline** – Tuesday midday. Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates; 01525 840 661; [suz\\_yates@btinternet.com](mailto:suz_yates@btinternet.com)

**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** Please note that **we will not** meet on Tuesday, **24 March**. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, **7 April**. Please ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for more information or just to ask for prayer for your intentions.



## CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We will not be meeting till after Easter so that members of the group can go to the Exploring the Bible sessions. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654 for information.



Update – our CAFOD total is now £767.01 – thank you everyone!

The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **23 March** 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.



### Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week 21 and 22 March

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Pat Rees	Noelette Hanley	Sue Barley
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Angela Bartlett	Christopher McMellon	Eamonn Diver
Eucharistic	Helen Wilson	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Adrian Hamilton	Carlos Rincon	Hilary Brennan
Driver		William Doyle	

### Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 28 and 29 March

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Suzanne Yates	Marion McClurg	Pat Rees
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	To Be Advised	Siobhan Campbell	Martin Brennan
Narrator	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Jesus	Fr. Dan	Fr. Dan	Fr. Dan
Other	Suzanne Yates	Marion McClurg	Pat Rees
Eucharistic	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Pat King	Myriam Rincon	Tony Davis
Driver			John Gallagher



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### WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK IN OUR LENTEN PROGRAMME?

- **Monday 23 March** – Lenten Service of Reconciliation at 7.30 pm.
- **Tuesday 24 March** – Choir practice at 7.30 pm.
- **Wednesday 25 March** - Session 8 of the Bible Timeline course at 7.30 pm
- **Saturday 28 March** – Retreat for Eucharistic ministers at 7.30 pm
- **Sunday 29 March** – Retreat for Eucharistic ministers at 9.30 am

### LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION MONDAY 23 MARCH AT 7.30 PM

Attending the Sacrament of Penance is a perfect way to prepare for Easter and to complete the time of Lent.

Our Lenten Service of Reconciliation will include the opportunity for personal confession.



### Churches Together in Flitwick and Amptill Good Friday Walk of Witness Friday 3 April at 10.00 am

Join us to follow the cross through Amptill.



Starting at St Andrew's Church at 10.00 am. Walking to Amptill Market Square, Amptill Methodist Church, and finishing at Amptill Baptist Church at about 11.00 am.

Walk followed by hot cross buns and tea or coffee.

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

The parish is holding a day of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This will be on Tuesday **31 March**, the Tuesday of Holy Week, and will run from 2.00 pm to 9.00 pm. It will provide an opportunity for quiet, reflective time with Our Blessed Lord. We need, as last year, three people to commit to being present in the church for a half hour period during the day. If you can help, sign up on the rota in the porch. If you can't commit to a specific time, please come when you can. This is a time for you to be in prayer in the presence of God. The day will end with Benediction at 8.45 pm.



### AN INVITATION TO THE CHRISM MASS THURSDAY 2 APRIL

This year we are organising a trip to attend the annual service when Bishop Peter blesses the sacred oils used in baptism, confirmation and healing throughout the coming year. The Mass begins at 11.00 am – we need to Flitwick at 9.15 am to ensure a good seat! The diocese provides a buffet lunch following the Mass. We get back to Flitwick around 3.00 pm. Please complete a reply slip, or speak directly to Deacon Philip to enable us to arrange pooled transport



### EXPLORING THE BIBLE

### Finishes this Wednesday 25 March

Featuring the acclaimed Bible TimeLine programme.

**Tea and coffee at 7.30 pm**  
**Session from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm**

### Circle of Prayer for March – Candidates for Sacraments

Lord – we praise and thank You for the precious gifts of Your sacraments for each of us. As our brothers and sisters prepare to join us in receiving these wonderful gifts, may they experience the power of Your presence and blessing. Amen

The second collection last week raised £299.40 for the sick and retired clergy. Thank you