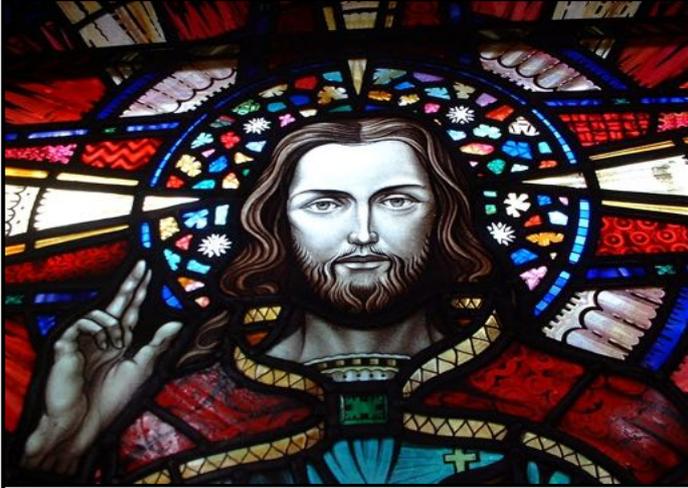


newsletter



22 and 23 July 2017

16th Sunday in 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



Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP

www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Telephone: 01525 715 109 (checked every day), 07711 953 926

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The Parable of the Wheat and the Darnel – Matthew 13:24-43

The parable of the Wheat and the Darnel is quite straightforward. A farmer sowed good seed in his field but, while he was asleep, an enemy sowed darnel amongst the wheat. Darnel is a weed and looks like wheat. The farmer's servants were all for pulling out the weeds but the farmer pointed out that this would mean some of the good seed would be lost. He said that both good and bad should remain together until the harvest.

The meaning of the parable seems to be that there is a need for patience in the kingdom of heaven. If the kingdom of heaven is interpreted as the Christian community, then the plea for patience applies to the community itself. It would spell disaster to attempt to achieve a pure society in which there were no sinners. Judgement of good and bad is the responsibility of God.

Matthew includes an allegorical interpretation of the parable telling of a time of final judgement. This parable teaches us today that we must not sit in judgement on other people. Patience, borne of mutual respect and tolerance is still the calling of the Christian. The two parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast are the simplest of all parables. The mustard seed is the smallest seed of all, but when it is planted it grows into a tree. The small amount of yeast added to half a hundredweight of flour produces a dough that will rise well beyond its former size. The meaning of both parables is that the kingdom of heaven from its small beginnings will grow into something vast. These two parables can be seen as being in the process of fulfilment. From the beginnings of Christianity, the movement has continued to spread until it now embraces every continent on earth. From these small beginnings it has grown into something large. The growth will continue until the daily prayer of the Christian is a reality: 'Your kingdom come! Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'.

Adapted from *The Word of God Year A* by Robin Cooper

Feast of St Anna and St Joachim – 26 July

An ancient tradition already known in the second century gives these names to the parents of the Virgin Mary. The cult of St Anna became popular in the sixth century in the East, and in the tenth century in the West, where she is the patron saint of Brittany. Joachim was added a long time later – too often the fate of fathers.



Although the information about Mary's parents is found in an early apocryphal writing that gives many miraculous and highly-coloured stories about the early life of the Virgin Mary, there is no reason to suppose that such a straightforward fact as her parents' names should be wrong, since there is nothing to be gained from falsifying it. It does not occur in the Gospels simply because the most reliable evangelists (the only ones whom we have allowed into the Bible) felt they had more important things to talk about.

But what, after all, could be more important than the parents who brought up the Virgin Mary to be the woman she was? At the moment of consenting to the Incarnation she took the most important decision ever taken by any human being, and the fact that she took it is to a great extent the work of her parents. The Holy Spirit gave her the strength to take the decision, but her parents' training gave her the wisdom to choose.

Those of us who have children must seek to bring them up to the best of our ability, to meet challenges that like Anna and Joachim, we have no way of even imagining.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app. by Universalis Publishing

FOODBANK

We are part of the NEED Project which operates a Foodbank for people in Flitwick and Ampthill.

Thank you for your help.

This week they are asking for

- **Tinned peas, carrots, rice pudding, spaghetti (NOT beans), tuna,**
- **Tinned meals like spaghetti bolognaise, ravioli or mince and onions**
- **Jam**

NORTHAMPTON development  CATHEDRAL campaign

Our cathedral in Northampton is the Mother Church of our diocese. If you have ever visited it you will be aware not only of its beauty but also its limitations in not being able to offer hospitality or accommodating special events and groups.

Exciting plans have been developed for the future of the cathedral and the fundraising campaign is underway. For further information about the project and how you can lend your support, please visit the cathedral website at

<http://northamptoncathedral.org/the-cathedral/cathedral-centre> where you can watch a video presentation about the proposed Cathedral Centre. The campaign office is based in Bishop's House and Angela Madge, the campaign administrator, will be happy to hear from you. Angela can be contacted on 01604 712065 or email: cathedralcampaign@northamptondiocese.com

THE ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT

Celtic Journeys

Exploring with St Brendan and the Celtic saints

Saturday 16 September 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Buckden Towers

Reserve the date in your diary and look out for the registration leaflets.

Space on the retreat is limited to 20 people.

Donation for the day £7.50

– pay on the day – bring a shared lunch



BOOK CLUB – NEXT MEETING

Thursday 21 September at 7.30 pm

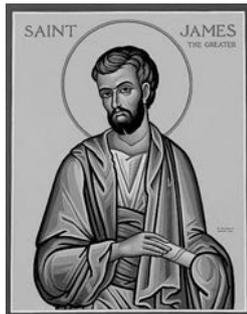
(in Ros Penn's home)

New members made very welcome and we will chat about this next book. Tea and coffee and snacks will be available. The next book is *Impressions of Jesus* by Denis McBride



FEAST OF ST JAMES (?-44) – 25 JULY

He was the brother of St John, like him a fisherman. He was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration and one of those who slept through most of the Agony in the Garden. He was the first of the apostles to be martyred, being beheaded by King Herod Agrippa I to please the Jewish opponents of Christianity. He was buried in Jerusalem, and nothing more is known about him until the ninth century.



At this time we learn of a tradition that the relics of St James were brought to Spain some time after his martyrdom, perhaps early, perhaps as late as 830. His shrine at Compostela, Galicia, grew in importance until it became the greatest pilgrimage centre in western Europe. In every country there are churches of St James and known, well-trodden pilgrim routes. In Paris, the Tour St Jacques marks the start of the route, and the Rue St Jacques points towards Compostela. In England, pilgrim routes lead from all parts of the country to the major ports that were used on the pilgrimage. This network of routes is a vital witness to the fact that the Middle Ages were not the static stay-at-home time that we often think them to be. Everyone must have known someone or known someone who knew someone, who had made the pilgrimage. The scallop shell, the emblem of St James, has become the emblem of pilgrims generally.

In 1987 the pilgrimage routes to Compostela were designated by the Council of Europe as historical cultural routes of international importance. The Confraternity of St James continues to work to restore and upgrade the refuges on a route which is still in active pilgrim use today.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app. by Universalis Publishing.

A huge thank you for the prayer support and concern during our recent tough time on the arrival Benedict Emmanuel. By God's grace and your many prayers Mum Fiona and Benedict are now home and doing much better, Deo Gratias, Kate Mansford.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR JULY – SEAFARERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Almighty God, we give thanks for all those who work at sea. We acknowledge our need for the food and raw materials they transport. We recognise that they are sometimes in danger and their long absences often involve sacrifices in their family life. Help us to show our gratitude not only in our words, but also in our actions. Amen.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **2 August**, 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **24 July** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS

will meet again in September. New members are welcome to join us in September to prayer for their families.



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



CONFIRMATION 2018

We invite families with children who will be in Year 8 in July 2018, to register for the confirmation programme starting later in the year.



Please email Deacon Philip at deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk with the name(s) of your child or child(ren).

Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. *C.S. Lewis*

INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and THIS Wednesday at 7.15 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	22 July	6.00 pm	Tony Fitzgerald, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday	23 July	11.00 am	Deceased members of the Ormai family
Monday	24 July	9.30 am	Liz, RIP
Tuesday	25 July		No Service
Wednesday	26 July	7.30 pm	Mary Kelly, Recently Deceased, RIP
Thursday	27 July		No Service
Friday	28 July	9.30 am	Bridget Russell, Recently Deceased, 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, 22 and 23 July

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Victoria Basterfield
2 nd Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Bernadette Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	John Flanagan	Anne Gadsden
Driver		William Doyle

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 29 and 30 July

Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Mary Brown	Noelette Hanley
2 nd Reading	Michael Burgess	Pauline Chambers
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Burgess	Martin Stynes
Driver		Ros Penn