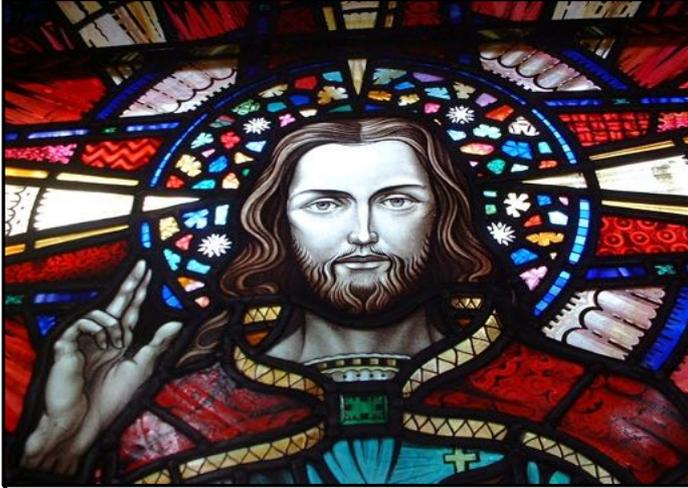


newsletter



23 and 24 December 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 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



Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP

Contact: 01525 715 109, 07711 953 926, www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Father John Danford, Parish Priest sacredheartlb@btinternet.com, 01525 372 321

Deacon Philip, Pastoral Administrator deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926

Suzanne Yates, Parish Secretary secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



Follow us on Facebook

Feast of St Thomas Becket (1118-1170) – 29 December

He was born in London and became a close friend of King Henry II. He was only a deacon when he was appointed chancellor of England. When he was ordained as archbishop of Canterbury, he underwent an abrupt conversion of life and began to defend the Church's rights against the king. He had to take refuge in a French monastery for six years. When he returned to his diocese, four knights, inspired by careless words from the king, assassinated him in his cathedral on 29 December 1170. He was immediately acknowledged as a martyr and the king later did penance and endowed his shrine.



He is remembered for his courage in defence of the rights of the Church.

St Thomas Becket is one of the patrons of Northampton Cathedral.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2017 AT SACRED HEART

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve	6.00 pm	Mass especially for Children and Families
	10.00 pm	Midnight Mass
Monday 25 December Christmas Day	9.00 am	Mass during the Day

Thank you so much for all your donations of food this Christmas for the **NEED project**. We had to have an extra collection due to your generosity. NEED are expecting to do 150 food boxes in the Ampthill and Flitwick.

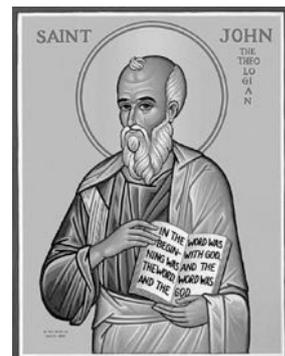
SVP Giving Tree-Progress

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity in response to this year's appeal. We will publish full details after Christmas but at the moment, the total of items donated stands at over 1,300 which is wonderful. May God bless you all

Feast of St John the Apostle – 27 December

St John, the Evangelist, who is styled in the Gospel, 'the beloved disciple', was a Galilean, son of Zebedee and Salome, and brother to St James the Greater, both of whom were fishermen. The two were called by Jesus to be disciples as they were mending their nets by the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus showed St John particular instances of kindness and affection above all the rest. He was present with Peter and James at the Transfiguration of Christ, and witnessed his agony in the Garden. Jesus confided the care of his holy Mother as he hung dying on the Cross to St John.



St John remained for a long time in Jerusalem, but his later years were spent at Ephesus, where he founded many churches. St John wrote his Gospel about sixty-three years after the Ascension of Christ; also three Epistles, and the wonderful and mysterious Book of the Apocalypse or Revelation. He was brought to Rome and, according to tradition, was cast into a caldron of boiling oil by order of Emperor Domitian. Like the three children in the fiery furnace of Babylon, he was miraculously preserved unharmed. He was later exiled to the Island of Patmos, where he wrote the Apocalypse, but afterwards returned to Ephesus.

In his extreme old age he continued to visit the churches of Asia. St Jerome relates that when age and weakness grew upon him so that he was no longer able to preach to the people, he would be carried to the assembly of the faithful by his disciples, with great difficulty; every time said to his flock only these words: 'My dear children, love one another.' St John died in peace at Ephesus about 100 AD, he was about ninety-four years old, according to St Epiphanius.

Adapted from <http://www.catholicculture.org>

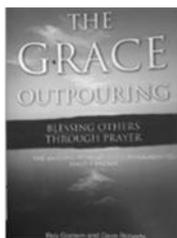
BOOK CLUB – Next Meeting Thursday 18 January 2018 at 7.30 pm Ros's home

(Tea/Coffee and Snacks)

The next book we have to read is:

THE GRACE OUTPOURING: BLESSING OTHERS THROUGH PRAYER

by Roy Godwin and Dave Roberts



This book is the story of how the Ffald-y-Brenin retreat centre in rural Wales began and how it became the epicentre of God's blessing. When Roy and Daphne Goodwin became the new directors at Ffald-y-Brenin, Roy was, at first, reluctant and unwilling to embrace this apparent change of vocation. He describes his frustration at knowing his calling to be in the field of evangelism but, instead, finding himself in a Christian setting ministering primarily to believers. The first sentence in the book is, 'I was desperate'. He cries out to God and within hours there is the first of many knocks on the

Youth Alpha Programme will continue on Saturday 13 January with the question *How can we have faith?* (This is the question we didn't do on 16 December).

It starts at 4.30 pm will finish by 6.00 pm.

For information contact Maggie or Helen on youcat@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



NEW MASS TIMES

This Saturday is our last 6.00 pm Mass. We have been fortunate to have Fr. Nathaniel with us since August and Fr. Peter this week.

Starting from **29 December** our new service times will be

Tuesday morning Mass at 9.30 am

Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm

Service of the Word and Communion

Friday morning Mass at 10.00 am

Sunday Mass will be at 9.00 am.

Sunday 31 December there will be only one Mass at 9.00 am.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 24 and 25 December

Mass	6.00 pm	10.00 pm	9.00 am
1 st Reader	Clare Bevan	Martin Brennan	Brendan Spillane
2 nd Reader	Adrian Hamilton	Suzanne Yates	Dee Brady
Eucharistic Minister	None Required	Nicky Paterson	To Be Advised
Eucharistic Minister	None Required	Hilary Brennan	To Be Advised

Important Information from Bishop Peter

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the government and urge it to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle Four

Celebrant: He will feed his flock with the power of the Lord,
With the majesty of the name of his God.

Deacon: They will live secure,
to the ends of the lands,
He himself shall be peace.



The Fourth Candle on the Wreath is lit.

**ALL: COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS,
COME LIGHT OF THE WORLD,
BRING US PEACE.**

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **21 December**, 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be having a break now until Easter. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



Mothers' Prayers will meet again in the New Year. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186.



Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 16 and 17 December the total was £537.85. With thanks, Finance Committee.

SACRED HEART 100 CLUB

The latest draw took place on 17 December and the lucky winners were, 1st Maria Curtin, 2nd Tom Eastwood, and 3rd Una McAlinden.

Tea and coffee will be available after 9.00 am Mass. All welcome



CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR DECEMBER – OUR DIOCESE

God our Father, in all the churches scattered throughout the world you show forth the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Through the Gospel and the Eucharist bring your people of the diocese of Northampton together in the Holy Spirit and guide us in your love. We acknowledge with deep gratitude your abundant blessings bestowed on this diocese and its people.



INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and 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 Fr. John or another local priest to say a Mass.

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Saturday 23 December 6.00 pm Deceased of the Pugh, Wilson and Hall Families

Sunday 24 December 9.00 am Deceased of the Futton and Nolan Families

Sunday 24 December 6.00 pm For the Children and the Young People of the Parish

Sunday 24 December 10.00 pm For the People of the Parish

Monday 25 December 9.00 pm Intentions of Nora Proctor

From Tuesday 26 December until Thursday 28 December there will be no services at Sacred Heart

Friday 29 December 10.00 am Margaret Healy, 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, 23 and 24 December

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am
1 st Reading	Fredrick Werrett	Ros Penn
2 nd Reading	Noreen Weighell	Ann Leatherland
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Anne Gadsden
Eucharistic Minister	Adrian Hamilton	Jane Crow

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week 31 December

Mass	9.00 am
1 st Reading	Kate Mansford
2 nd Reading	Judith Latham
Eucharistic Minister	Myriam Rincon
Eucharistic Minister	Carols Rincon