

newsletter



24 and 25 January 2015

3rd Sunday, 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

Times of Mass



| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday | 24 January | 6.00 pm | Sacred Heart Church | Private Intentions |
| Sunday | 25 January | 9.00 am | Sacred Heart Church | Private Intentions |
| | | 11.00 am | Sacred Heart Church | Private Intentions |
| | | 5.00 pm | Sacred Heart Church | Private Intentions – Latin Mass |
| Monday | 26 January | 9.30 am | Sacred Heart Church | Service of the Word and Communion |
| Tuesday | 27 January | 9.30 am | Sacred Heart Church | NO SERVICE |
| Wednesday | 28 January | 9.30 am | Sacred Heart Church | Service of the Word and Communion |
| Thursday | 29 January | 9.30 am | Sacred Heart Church | Private Intentions |
| Friday | 30 January | 9.30 am | Sacred Heart Church | Service of the Word and Communion |

Fr. Denis writes ...

One day, seven hundred years ago, the Abbot of Arbroath and a couple of brave companions set out from the shore and paddle their coracle to the notorious rock that had given so many lives to the crashing waves and stormy seas. Visible only for a few hours at low tide, the reef caused an estimated six shipwrecks each year. Risking their lives, the abbot and his helpers fastened a bell at the highest point of the largely submerged hazard, giving rise to the name Bell Rock. One year later, Dutch pirates stole it. From that moment, sailors and fisherfolk again dreaded that deadly rock. It was only in the nineteenth century that the Bell Rock lighthouse was constructed. Since 1 December 1811, it has pointed seafarers toward safety.



For those who have eyes to see, the birth of Jesus offers the world new life and hope. He is the lighthouse, shining into the darkness of people's lives. For those who follow His invitation to the safe harbour of the kingdom of God, His miracles signpost the way to a new beginning.

Darkness can be a terrifying experience. Many children will not sleep unless a nearby light assures them of safety. All of us experience storms, when howling winds and thrashing waves threaten to overturn everything to which we hold firm. Breton fisherman pray 'Lord, protect me. The sea is so wide and my boat so small.' Jesus told His listeners that darkness and fear need not be overwhelming. He is our lighthouse.

A Reflection by Fr. Denis

Preaching has always had a bad press. The word itself is far more commonly used in its derogatory than in its literal sense. Even priests themselves prefer to refer to this part of their ministry as 'saying a few words' rather than 'preaching'. The word 'homily', with its homely ring, has all but replaced 'sermon'. There is an holier-than-thou odour that clings to preaching, which is offensive to the listener as it is embarrassing to the preacher. Most, like Jonah, are reluctant preachers. Like him, too, they go in obedience to the word of the Lord.



When Christ began to recruit preachers of His gospels, He showed a marked preference for fishermen. It is not without significance. Fishermen are noted for two qualities, patience and hope. The results they achieve are rarely commensurate with the time they put in. But they persevere and they hope. Again and again they launch out into the deep and cast their nets. Simon and Andrew and the sons of Zebedee, James and John, had done their novitiate on the Sea of Galilee. 'Follow Me,' Christ said to them, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' They left their boats and their nets for the life of an itinerant preacher.

They were called to proclaim the good news, to preach the gospel. The long

hours spent catching nothing in the sea of Galilee would stand them in good stead.

Preaching is like fishing. When the priest casts out his line into a sea of souls on a Sunday morning, he never knows who might nibble at his bait. He has no way of knowing what his yield might be. He will never know what grace-filled words of his touched a soul in need.



INFORMATION

CONFESSIONS

Fr. Denis has resumed hearing confessions from 11.00 am to 11.30 am each Saturday.

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. For 17 and 18 January the total was £633.86; this is £83.86 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.

A big **THANK YOU** from Flitwick Singers ... for supporting our fundraising concert in December. Although we raise funds for charity throughout the year, the largest proportion of what we able to give to our chosen cause comes from our Christmas concerts. This year we have sent £1275.62 to Chums, a local charity which supports children who suffer bereavement and other types of severe trauma.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS meet fortnightly and our next meeting is on Tuesday **27 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 POST-COMMUNION GROUP

The post-Communion group next meeting is today, **25 January**. We meet in church after the 9.00 am Mass.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We will not 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.



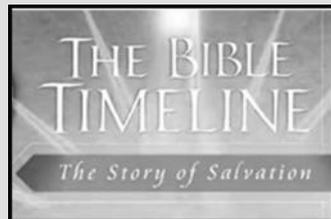
THE PRE-COMMUNION GROUP

The pre-Communion group meet in church after the 9.00 am Mass from 9.45 am till 10.30 am.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

Wednesdays from 4 February to 25 March

Featuring the acclaimed Bible TimeLine programme in use in parishes across the country.



For details of the programme and enrolment please see the posters and leaflets in church. (Excludes Ash Wednesday: Tuesday 17 February instead).

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

The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **26 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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week 24 and 25 January

| Mass | 6.00 pm | 9.00 am | 11.00 am |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 st Reader | Angela Bartlett | Maggie Dullaghan | Pauline Chambers |
| 2 nd Reader | John Flanagan | Dee Brady | Una McAlinden |
| Eucharistic | Adrian Hamilton | Deacon Philip Pugh | Deacon Philip Pugh |
| Eucharistic | Helen Wilson | Carlos Rincon | Nicky Paterson |
| Driver | | David Toland | |

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 31 January and 1 February

| Mass | 6.00 pm | 9.00 am | 11.00 am |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 st Reader | Sue Barley | Siobhan Campbell | Angela Turner |
| 2 nd Reader | Christine Jackson | Darren Campbell | Dennis Horner |
| Eucharistic | Deacon Philip Pugh | Deacon Philip Pugh | Deacon Philip Pugh |
| Eucharistic | Don Perrett | Myriam Rincon | Grace McKenna |
| Driver | | Kate Mansford | |



Follow us on facebook

There will be a second collection this weekend, **24 and 25 January**. When we are asked for donations for good causes these are done from parish funds. we are collecting for the Sacred Heart Worthy Causes Reserve Fund. Gift Aid envelopes are at the back of the church so that if you wish, you can make your donation go further.



QUIET DAY

**Saturday 31 January 2015
10.30 am till 3.00 pm**

Finding Peace and Praying for Peace

After our successful new venture last year we will be offering another opportunity to spend some time in quiet contemplation. All you need to do is to set aside an hour or so to explore a series of prayer spaces and bases in the church. Tea and coffee available all day, with a listening ear on hand.

Letter received by the SVP thanking our parish for items received from our Giving Tree.

Christmas Relief in Bedford (C.R.I.B.) 2014

I have the pleasure of writing to you to say thank you for your donation.

We are touched by the generosity you have shown towards the individuals we support. Your gifts enable us to help our guests make positive changes in their lives. More importantly your gifts make all the difference to individuals who would otherwise be alone on the street this Christmas.

With your support we can continue with our commitment to provide a service to the local area this winter. The single largest contributor to the charity is the public. It's through their goodwill we achieve as much as we do.

On behalf of the guests, volunteers, staff and board of trustees we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2015.

With kind regards,
Faithfully,
Ryan Flecknell, Chief Executive Officer

POPE FRANCIS'S 10 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

- 4. A healthy sense of leisure.** The pleasures of art, literature and playing together with children have been lost, he says. Consumerism has brought us anxiety and stress, causing people to lose a healthy culture of leisure. Their time is swallowed up so people can't share it with anyone. Even though many parents work long hours, they must set aside time to play with their children; work makes it complicated, but you must do it, he says. Families must also turn off the TV when they sit down to eat because, even though television is useful for keeping up with the news, having it on during mealtime doesn't let you communicate with each other.
- 5. Sundays should be holidays.** Workers should have Sundays off because Sunday is for family.
To be continued next week.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next baptism preparation classes will be held on **7 and 14 February** starting at 10 am for one hour in the hall at the back of the church.



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. God-parents and grand-parents are welcome to join us.

Circle of Prayer for January – For Peace

Dear Lord, as we begin a new year, we pray for an increase of Your peace in the world, for ourselves, that we would have Your peace in our hearts and live lives of peace. We pray especially for those who do not know peace, and for those who live in areas of conflict, that Your peace and presence would break through into their hearts. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

