

newsletter



25 and 26 February 2017

8th 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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Ash Wednesday – 1 March

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday always falls 46 days before Easter. While Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, all Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on this day in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

During Mass, the ashes are distributed. Burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday makes the ashes; we ask our parishioners to return any palms that they took home so that we can use them. After the priest blesses the ashes and sprinkles them with holy water, the faithful come forward to receive them. The priest or deacon dips his right thumb in the ashes and, making the Sign of the Cross on each person's forehead, says, 'Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return.'

The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. The ashes that we receive are a reminder of our own sinfulness, and many Catholics leave them on their foreheads all day as a sign of humility.

The Church emphasises the penitential nature of Ash Wednesday by calling us to fast and abstain from meat. Catholics who are over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means that they can eat only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in between. Catholics who are over the age of 14 are required to refrain from eating any meat or any food made with meat on Ash Wednesday

This fasting and abstinence is not simply a form of penance, however, it is also a call for us to take stock of our spiritual lives. As Lent begins, we should set specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter and decide how we will pursue them.

Adapted from <http://catholicism.about.com>

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday
1 March is Ash Wednesday and there will be Service of the Word and Communion with ashes at 9.30 am and Mass at 7.30 pm.



CAFOD LENT FAST DAY IS FRIDAY 10 MARCH

There will be an appeal on behalf of CAFOD at all Masses next weekend. Collection envelopes and prayer cards will be distributed. The envelopes will be collected at Masses on 11 and 12 March.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

We are holding the Stations of the Cross during Lent this year. Each celebration will be led by a different parish group.

The dates for the services are:

- † **Wednesday 8 March** after Mass led by the Charismatic Prayer
- † **Monday 13 March** at 2.00 pm led by the Sewing Group
- † **Monday 20 March** at 7.30 pm led Mothers' Prayers
- † **Thursday 30 March** at 7.30 pm led buy Parish Pastoral Council
- † **Monday 3 April** at 7.30 pm led by SVP

Please put these dates in your diaries and make the Stations of the Cross part of your Lenten preparations.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN AMPHILL AND FLITWICK (CTA&F)

As part of our Lenten programme, each of the six churches that are part of CTA&F is organising a prayer space on six Saturdays in Lent, based on themes from people Jesus encountered on the way to the cross. This programme will start at Flitwick Methodist on Saturday **4 March** from 10.00 am till midday.

Below are the other churches, their dates and themes.

Date	Church	Theme
4 March	Flitwick Methodist	Mary and Martha
11 March	Sacred Heart	The large crowds following Jesus
18 March	Amphill Baptist	Ten lepers
25 March	Sts Peter and Paul's Flitwick	A blind man receives sight
1 April	Amphill Methodist	Zacchaeus
8 April	St Andrew's Amphill	Jerusalem: The entry and the crowds

You are welcome to attend all or some of these open churches

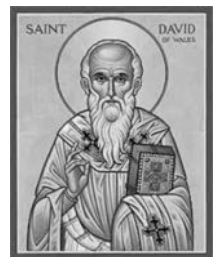
SVP Lenten Lunch

On Tuesday 14 March the SVP will again be serving a simple Lenten Lunch of soup and bread. The UN has just declared a famine in South Sudan where 100,000 people are facing starvation and 4.9 million people are in urgent need of food. Please come along between 12 noon and 1.30 pm to enjoy homemade soup and help the helpless. All donations will go to the SVP in Sudan and South Sudan where they are not only feeding the hungry but teaching and training the next generation.



Feast of St David (520-589) – 1 March

The earliest life of St David dates from five centuries after his death, probably in 589. He became eminent as abbot and bishop at the site now known as St David's, but formerly Mynyw, from which the present diocese of Menevia is named. He is credited with a monastic rule based on the example of Eastern Fathers, and also with a Penitentiary. He was invited to preside at the synod of Llandewibrefi. Monks who trained at his monastery evangelised South Wales and made foundations in Cornwall, Brittany and Ireland. St David is said to have sent a Mass rite to Ireland. At his death, his contemporary St Kentigern, founder of St Asaph's in North Wales, witnessed in vision his joyful entrance into the joy of his Lord. His holy relics have been found hidden in the fabric of St David's Cathedral, where they are carefully preserved. He was canonised by Pope Callistus II in 1123.



Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 18 and 19 February the total was £489.04. This is £51.96 less than budgeted to meet the parish running costs. The second collection for the White Flower Appeal was £180.60. With thanks, Finance Committee.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – FRIDAY 3 MARCH

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women from the Philippines and has the theme 'Am I being unfair to you? The service focuses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20 v 1-16).



Amphill Service – 10.30 am at St Andrew's

Flitwick Service – 7.30 pm at Flitwick Methodist Church

Please join us – everyone is welcome. Men as well!



Women's World Day of Prayer

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **1 March** after Mass. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **27 February** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



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

In the Home of Ros Penn

New members made very welcome and we will chat about this book, *The Fisherman: A Novel* by Larry Huntsperger.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS will

meet on **6 March**. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Meetings are at 80 George St, Maulden. Contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.



OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS Lenten Conversations for 2017

Tuesdays, 7 March to 4 April: 7.45 pm to 9.30 pm

Week by week we attend Mass; sometimes we feel fully engaged, at other times we can be distracted and preoccupied. Mass is called 'the source and summit' of our faith and life. This year our Lenten conversations explore how we can enhance our understanding and participation in the Mass and the community.



In our sessions we will begin by looking into the history and the setting of Mass. In the weeks that follow, we will then journey through the elements of the Mass from our gathering; to hearing the Word; our thanksgiving in the Eucharist; to sharing the communion; to finish with understanding our mission from Jesus to go out into the everyday world.

Each week, we will extend the conversation to everyone in the parish by including a short summary of the session along with questions to ponder in the weekly newsletter. Thus everyone can grow in their appreciation of the jewel of the Church – the Mass.

Come along and join us for fellowship, conversation, reflection and a deeper introduction to the centre of our life of faith – the Mass. For more information, see the leaflet in the foyer or speak to Deacon Philip

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



REFLECTION MORNING

Saturday 11 March – 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

St Peter's Church, Higham Road, Rushden, NN10 6AG

with Brian Purfield from CAFOD

Email: admin@nores.org.uk to let us

know you will be attending or telephone: 01582 723 312 extn.6

Circle of Prayer for February – All who are sick and those who care for them

Accept the prayers we offer for our brothers and sisters who are ill, that they may be restored to fullness of health. We pray for doctors, nurses and all who care for the sick and the dying that they may bring Christ's love and compassion to all whom they care for. 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	25 February	6.00 pm	John McMahon, RIP
Sunday	26 February	11.00 am	Natasha Kelly-Watson, Anniversary, RIP
Monday	27 February	9.30 am	Matt Brady, RIP
Tuesday	28 February		No Service
Wednesday	1 March	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion with Ashes
Wednesday	1 March	7.30 pm	People of the Parish
Thursday	2 March		No Service
Friday	3 March	9.30 am	Women of the World

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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 25 and 26 February		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Angela Bartlett	Victoria Basterfield
2 nd Reading	Suzanne Yates	Bernadette Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Chris Till	Ros Penn
Driver		C./J. Gallagher
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 4 and 5 March		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Martin Brennan
2 nd Reading	Michael Burgess	Martin Brennan
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Burgess	Hilary Brennan
Driver		Louis Chadwick