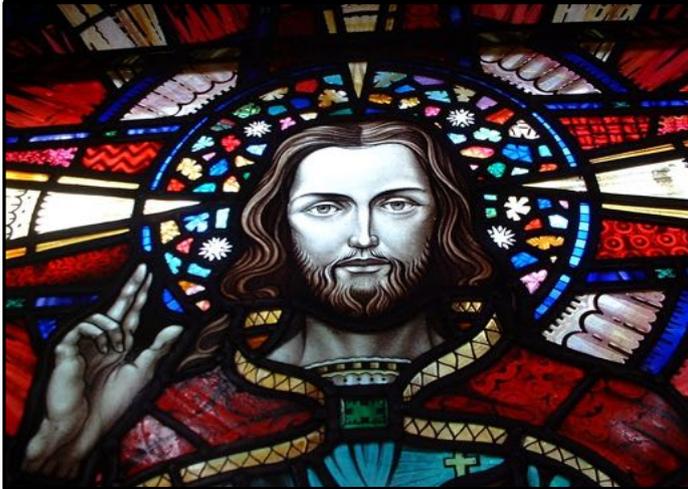


newsletter



25 and 26 March 2017

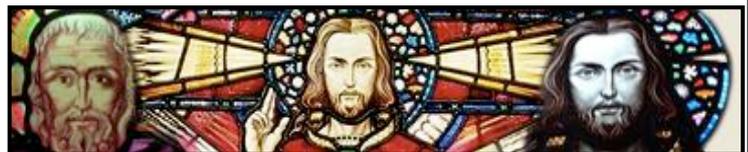
4th Sunday of Lent – Year A



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

Canon Bennie Noonan, Parish Priest

frbennie@btinternet.com, 01462 813 436

Deacon Philip, Pastoral Administrator

deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926

Suzanne Yates, Parish Secretary

secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



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Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent is unique; like the third Sunday of Advent, the fourth Sunday of Lent is a break in an otherwise penitential season. The vestments for this day are rose, as they are on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, and flowers may adorn the altar. This day was called Laetare Sunday (also Rose Sunday), and took its name from the opening words of the Mass, the Introits, 'Laetare, Jerusalem'. It is now called Rejoicing Sunday.

Rejoicing Sunday is also known as Mothering Sunday because of the epistle reading that speaks of how, not the Jews, but those who come to Christ regardless of their ancestry, are the inheritors of Abraham's promise. (Galatians 4:22-31)

The old practice of visiting the cathedral, or 'mother church' of the diocese, on this day is another reason for the name. In England, mothers are honoured today, too, in a manner rather like on Mother's Day in the USA. Spring bulb flowers are given to mothers, and simnel cake is made to celebrate the occasion (this cake has also become the Easter Cake of late). The word simnel comes from the Latin *simila*, a high-grade flour. Eleven pieces of almond paste are rolled into balls and put on top of the cake. These represent the Apostles, less Judas.

The wearing of rose vestments on Laetare Sunday is a custom originating when, as a symbol of joy and hope in the middle of this sombre season, popes would carry a golden rose in their right hand when returning from the celebration of Mass. As far back as 1051, Pope Leo IX called this custom an 'ancient institution'.

First it was a natural rose, then a single golden rose of natural size, but since the fifteenth century it has consisted of a cluster or branch of roses wrought of pure gold in brilliant workmanship by famous artists. The popes bless one every year, and often confer them on churches, shrines, cities, or distinguished persons as a token of esteem and paternal affection. In the case of a bestowal, a new rose is made the following year. The golden rose represents Christ in the shining splendour of his majesty, the 'flower sprung from the root of Jesse'.



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 spaces on six Saturdays in Lent based on themes from people Jesus encountered on the way to the cross. Next Saturday **1 April** it will be at Ampthill Methodist church from 10.00 am till midday. Below are the other churches, their dates and themes. You are welcome to attend all or some of these open churches.

Date	Church	Theme
1 April	Ampthill Methodist	Zacchaeus
2 April	St Andrew's Ampthill	Jerusalem: The entry and the crowds

RCIA

Today, Sunday, our catechumen, Sharon will receive a personal copy of the Lord's Prayer as part of her preparation to be received into the church at Easter. Please remember her in your prayers.



OUR LENTEN CONVERSATION 'OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS' ABOUT SESSION 4 – THANKSGIVING

Each week we are extending the Lenten conversation 'Our Participation in the Mass' to everyone in the parish through this short summary of the session. There are questions to ponder in the week ahead in order that everyone can grow in their appreciation of the jewel of the church – the Mass. Why not join us in person next Tuesday!

We transition from the focus on the Word, and the lectern-table to the core, the centre of the whole Mass. The title of this part of the Mass – the true summit– is 'Eucharist', which derives from a Greek word that means 'thanksgiving'.

This leaves the question: Thanksgiving for what? At one level we are giving thanks for everything, for all the gifts and grace that God showers on us and the world, there is one gift that takes precedence and shapes the structure of this part of the Mass. This is the gift of Jesus himself – his Body and his Blood.

Jesus is the sacrifice that is made a reality in the Eucharistic Prayer which is the framework for the time of thanksgiving. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the words of the last supper and the gift of Jesus transforms the human gifts of bread and wine – and ourselves – into the one Body we will later share in the 'communion'. That will in turn change us into one body of action and mission.

There are four alternative Eucharistic Prayers, each of which had a similar structure and direction, though a unique character. While it seems that all of the action of the thanksgiving takes place at the hands of the priest, behind the altar table, we are all in fact drawn into this most important prayer of the church. We are more than spectators, we are the gifts, we are the people the prayer is said for, we respond to affirm our faith. Through the Holy and the Lamb of God we praise and confirm the power, majesty and mercy of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Here are some questions to ponder this week...

- † *What am I thankful for?*
- † *To whom am I offering thanks during the Mass?*
- † *How do I participate in the reality of the Eucharistic Prayer?*
- † *What does the Eucharistic Prayer mean for me right now?*
- † *What would I like it to mean?*



FLITWICK FLAG COMPETITION

Flitwick Town Council would like members of the community to design a flag that they would like to represent the town. The flag will be flying throughout the year apart from National Holidays and will make its first appearance at the Carnival on Saturday 10 June to start off the parade. To enter you will need to be either a resident of Flitwick, attend school or be involved in a Club or Group in Flitwick. The closing date for entries is **Tuesday 28 March**. Entry forms are available on the noticeboard

This **LENT FAST DAY** our parish raised **£684.85** for CAFOD. Thank you for your support.

This incredible amount will help more hardworking people like Florence in Zambia to turn something as small as a tiny fish into something amazing, like an education for her children.

PLANNED GIVING/GIFT AID

Boxes of offertory envelopes will be available this weekend **24/25 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 69 individuals/families now offering by standing order we now are able to reduce the number of offertory envelope boxes required. As usual boxes will be arranged in alphabetical order.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer 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 both Masses this weekend to provide copies of the forms and further information on any of the planned giving methods. He can also be contacted on 01525 715 309 or by email plannedgiving@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **5 April** 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 **27 March** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet on 3 April.

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



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The parish is holding exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This will 5 April from 2.00 pm to 9.00 pm. It will provide an opportunity for quiet, reflective time with Our Blessed Lord. This is a time for you to be in prayer in the presence of God. The evening will end with Benediction at 8.45 pm.

AN INVITATION TO THE CHRISM MASS – THURSDAY 13 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 leave Flitwick at 9.15 am to ensure a good seat! The diocese provides a buffet lunch following the Mass. We will 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, deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk or phone 07711 953 926.



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



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK IN OUR LENTEN PROGRAMME?

- **Tuesday 28 March** – Session 4 'Our Participation in the Mass' at 7.45 pm
- **Thursday 30 March** – PPC to led Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm
- **Saturday 1 April** – Churches Together Prayer Space, at Ampthill Methodist church, 10.00 am till 12.00 noon

We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 18 and 19 March the total was £460.40; this is £89.60 less than what is budgeted to meet the parish running costs. The Finance Committee

LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION MONDAY 10 APRIL AT 7.30 PM

In the season of Lent we are called to come to reconciliation with God in preparation for Easter. This annual Lenten service provides the opportunity to participate in a liturgy of reconciliation and then to attend the Sacrament of Penance.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR MARCH – CAFOD AND ITS WORK FOR JUSTICE

Fill the hearts of mankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. May there be an end to division, strife and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace.



INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and NEXT 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 March	6.00 pm	Gentile and Derek Rathbone, Anniversary, RIP
Sunday	26 March	11.00 am	Patrick Hession, RIP
Monday	27 March	9.30 am	Betty Mahony, RIP
Tuesday	28 March		No Service
Wednesday	29 March	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	30 March		No Service
Friday	31 March	9.30 am	Gladys Johnson, 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, 25 and 26 March		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Dee Brady	Ros Penn
2 nd Reading	Pat Crowe	Brendan Spillane
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Don Perrett	Nicky Paterson
Driver		Ros Penn
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 1 and 2 April		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Judith Latham	Victoria Basterfield
2 nd Reading	Alison Braniff	Bernadette Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	C./M. Rincon	Catherine Davies
Driver		David Toland