

# newsletter



25 and 26 April 2015

Fourth Sunday of Easter, 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

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Tel: 01525 715 109, [www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)



## Times of Mass

Saturday	25 April	6.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Ray Mahony, RIP
Sunday	26 April	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Special Intentions
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	27 April	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion
Tuesday	28 April	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	No Service
Wednesday	29 April	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	30 April	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	No Service
Friday	1 May	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion

## *Diocesan Priests Training Fund*

In Northampton we have nine men training for the priesthood, eight at St Mary's College, Oscott and one at the Venerable English College in Rome. Two men will be ordained priests this year and one will be ordained a deacon and a priest next year. The others will be ordained over the next three or four years.

### **Key Moments in the Seminary**

During his time of preparation, the student reaches various landmarks on his journey to the priesthood; at some stage after the initial two years, he will be accepted as a Candidate for Holy Orders. For the first time he publicly proclaims his desire to be a priest and his commitment to continue his formation. The bishop receives him as one he hopes will persevere in his training and become a priest. He will receive the Ministry of Reader. Although a lay ministry, this will also remind him of his need to prepare for the priest's task of proclaiming the Gospel. He will receive the lay Ministry of Acolyte, looking ahead to the priest's role in the Eucharist and the other sacraments. Towards the end of his time at the seminary he will be ordained a deacon. He may now baptise, preach, preside at weddings and funerals, and lead the people in prayer. He commits himself to lifelong celibacy and to praying the Divine Office. The new deacon will exercise his ministry either in the seminary or in a parish.

**Please give generously to our second collection today which helps towards the training of our priests.**

## Good Shepherd Sunday

This Sunday's Gospel passage highlights some of the characteristics of Jesus the good shepherd. The first has to do with the reciprocal knowledge that the sheep and shepherd have: 'My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me'. In certain countries of Europe sheep are raised principally for their meat; in Israel they were raised above all for wool and milk. For this reason they remained for many years in the company of the shepherd who knew the character of each one and gave them affectionate names.



What Jesus wants to say with these images is clear. He knows his disciples (and, as God, all men), he knows them by name; which for the Bible means their innermost essence. He loves them with a personal love that treats each as if they were the only one who existed for him. Christ only knows how to count to one, and that one is each of us.

The Gospel passage tells us something else about the good shepherd. He gives his life to his sheep and for his sheep, and no one can take them out of his hand. Wild animals and bandits were a nightmare for the shepherds of Israel. This was the moment in which is revealed the difference between the true shepherd and the hired hand, who works only for the pay he receives, who does not love, and indeed often hates, the sheep.

Confronted with danger, the mercenary flees and leaves the sheep at the mercy of the wolf or bandits; the true shepherd courageously faces the danger to save the flock. This explains why the liturgy proposes the passage about the good shepherd to us during the time of Easter -- the moment in which Christ showed that he is the good shepherd who gives his life for his sheep.

## INFORMATION

### CONFESSIONS

Confessions have been suspended for the present, please contact Deacon Philip for information on 07780 687 452.

### 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 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 18 and 19 April the total was £628.29; this is more than the amount needed 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.

### PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND

There will be a second collection this weekend, 25 and 26 April. This collection is for the Priests' Training Fund. This money is to cover the costs of training new priests for our diocese. Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of the church. People contributing to Together in Faith do not need to contribute to this collection. Please be as generous as you can.



### MOTHERS' PRAYERS

meet fortnightly and our next meeting is on Tuesday **28 April** 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.



### BOOK CLUB DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday **18 June 2015** at 7.30 pm at the home of Ros Penn, new members are made very welcome, all you need to do is get the book, read it and then we will chat about it. (Refreshments)

Our next book is *Sacred Places: Stations on a Celtic Way* by Margaret Silf

There are many books that explore actual, physical, sacred space and pilgrimage sites. This is a different kind of book. It introduces seven traditional sacred spaces but then leads readers into a deeper reflection on what such sacred space means in our own lives and experience. The various sacred spaces explored are: the Celtic cross; the infinite knot; hilltops; wells and springs; causeways and bridges; thresholds and burial grounds; and boundaries. The ideas are then brought together by means of a scripture story.



### CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Our next meeting is on **29 April** 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654 for information.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **27 April** 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](mailto:suz_yates@btinternet.com)

#### Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 25 and 26 April

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Judith Latham	Siobhan Campbell	Pauline Chambers
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Angela Bartlett	Darren Campbell	Dennis Horner
Eucharistic	John Flanagan	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Helen Wilson	Myriam Rincon	Tony Davis
Driver		Kate Mansfield	

#### Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week 2 and 3 May

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Pat Rees	Maggie Dullaghan	Eamonn Diver
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Sue Barley	Alison Braniff	Una McAlinden
Eucharistic	Pat King	Martin Stynes	Grace McKenna
Eucharistic	Don Perrett	Jane Crow	Nicky Paterson
Driver		William Doyle	



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### EASTER PILGRIMAGE

Parishioners, family and friends are invited to join the One Climate One World Easter pilgrimage, a series of five 10-mile countryside walks linking the parishes of our pastoral area on Saturdays in April and May.

Our next walk is number 3.

**3<sup>rd</sup> leg – 2 May** Leighton Buzzard – Flitwick (Sacred Heart);

**4<sup>th</sup> leg – 16 May** Flitwick – Shefford;

**5<sup>th</sup> leg – 23 May** Shefford – Biggleswade

Each stage will include a stop for refreshment and the option of a shorter walk. For information on how to register to walk, or to sponsor a pilgrim in aid of CAFOD's Hungry for Change initiative, contact the parish coordinator, Martin Brennan on [m.brennan1956@btinternet.com](mailto:m.brennan1956@btinternet.com)



### LONDON MARATHON

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners who are helping at, or running in the London Marathon this Sunday.

First Holy Communion will take place at Mass today 26 April.



We congratulate *Gabriel, George, Jamie, and William* who receive their First Holy Communion today. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Children's Liturgy

There will be no children's liturgy at the Masses where First Holy Communion is being celebrated.

### Circle of Prayer for April – The Consecrated Life

Jesus Our Saviour, Incarnate Word, as You have entrusted Your own way of life to those whom You have called, continue to draw to Yourself men and women who will be, for the people of our time, dispensers of mercy, heralds of Your return, living signs of the Resurrection and of its treasures of virginity, poverty and obedience.



## Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2015



**Be the answer to Loko's prayer this Christian Aid Week.**

This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko.

From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.



Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid.

**WE NEED COLLECTORS FOR OUR AREA!  
IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT  
EAMONN DIVER ON 01525 721 257  
YOU ONLY NEED TO DO YOUR OWN  
STREET!**

### Holy Hour and Prayer for the General Election

**Wednesday 29 April**

**Afternoon Session, 3.00 pm till 4.00 pm**

**Evening Session, 7.30 pm till 8.30 pm,**

**ending with Benediction**

Join us for an Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, scripture, prayer and quiet reflection on four topics related to the moral issues involved in the general election. Come along for as long you can. Help to pray for wise discernment in the election.