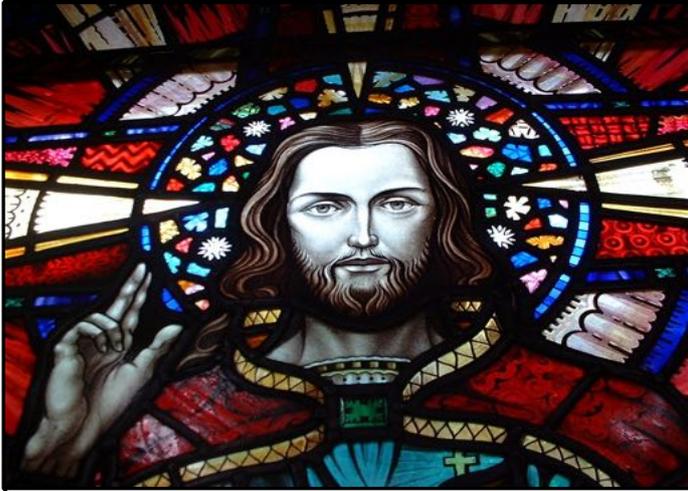


# newsletter



26 and 27 August 2017

21<sup>st</sup> 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



Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP  
[www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)

Telephone: 01525 715 109 (checked every day), 07711 953 926

**Canon Bennie Noonan**, Parish Priest    [frbennie@btinternet.com](mailto:frbennie@btinternet.com), 01462 813 436

**Deacon Philip**, Pastoral Administrator    [deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk), 07711 953 926

**Suzanne Yates**, Parish Secretary    [secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)



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## Feast of the Death of John the Baptist – 29 August

John the Baptist is the only saint in the calendar (apart from St Joseph) who has two feasts to himself. One, in August, celebrates his death, and one, in June, celebrates his birth. And this is as it should be, for as Christ himself said, John was the greatest of the sons of men.

The greatest, but also the most tragic. A prophet from before his birth, leaping in the womb to announce the coming of the incarnate God, his task was to proclaim the fulfilment of all prophecies – and thus his own obsolescence. And he did it: with unequalled courage he spread the news that he, the greatest of all men, was the least in the kingdom of heaven. His disciples, and the devil, would have preferred him to fight, to build his sect, to defeat this upstart whom he himself had baptised, to seize his place in history. But he did not – and so, rightly, he has his place and he has glory in heaven.



We envy the great and the talented; sometimes we think that they themselves are beyond envy. But when they come across someone with greater gifts, as one day most of them will, they will see for the first time what it means to feel like us. Let us pray that they, like John the Baptist, may pass that test.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

**Important Reminder – Sunday Mass time will change to  
9.00 am from NEXT Sunday, 3 September.**

## Questions about the Future of the Parish

### When will I be able to go to confession?

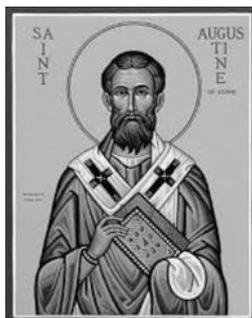
Fr. John aims to offer the sacrament of reconciliation regularly on a Saturday morning, once a month. This will usually be the first Saturday at 10.30 am. Any changes due to his holidays will be notified well in advance, or an alternative priest may be available.

In addition we will continue with the tradition of holding services of reconciliation in Lent and Advent. These liturgies have always been well supported. They offer prayer, reflection and a time of personal preparation for confession, which is then provided by at least two priests. If there is any interest in holding a third event at some other time in the year we will happily organise this.

Fr. John will also be celebrating weekday Mass on Tuesday and Friday, when there will be the opportunity to request the sacrament before or after Mass.

### 28 August – Feast of St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

He was born in Thagaste in Africa of a Berber family. He was brought up a Christian but left the Church and embraced the Manichaean heresy, later seeing how nonsensical it was and becoming a Neoplatonist instead. He led a wild and dissolute youth. He took a concubine by whom he had a son, Adeodatus. He had a brilliant legal and academic career. At length, through the prayers of his mother, and the teaching of St Ambrose of Milan, he was converted back to Christianity. He was baptised in 387, shortly before his mother's death. He returned home to Africa and led an ascetic life. He was elected Bishop of Hippo and spent thirty-four years looking after his flock, teaching them, strengthening them in the faith and protecting them strenuously against the errors of the time. He wrote an enormous number of works: the Office of Readings has many extracts from them. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Boniface VIII in 1308.



Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

### THE ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT

#### *Celtic Journeys*

Exploring with St Brendan and the Celtic saints  
**Saturday 16 September 9.30 am to 3.30 pm**  
at Buckden Towers

Reserve the date in your diary.  
Look out for the registration leaflets.

Space on the retreat is limited to 20 people. Donation for the day £10.00 – pay on the day – bring a shared lunch.



### BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS

The second part of this baptism preparation class will be held on **Saturday 2 September**, starting at 10.00 am for one hour in the St Francis Suite.



### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Macmillan Coffee Morning at Sacred Heart church, Friday **29 September** immediately after 9.30 am Mass.



**BOOK CLUB – NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday 21 September at 7.30 pm**  
(in Ros Penn's home)

New members made very welcome and we will chat about this next book. Tea and coffee and snacks will be available. The next book is *Impressions of Jesus* by Denis McBride



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME



We are looking forward to starting our Sacramental programme soon.

If your child is in Year 2 she/he is ready to start Reconciliation on 12 November.

If your child is in Year 3 and completed the Reconciliation programme, the Communion program will start on 25 February 2018. Both programmes will run every week after the Sunday Mass.

Post-Communion will run alongside both classes fortnightly.

It is **vital** to register for these programmes; please email [sacrament@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:sacrament@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk) to receive enrolment paperwork. Please make sure you include your child's school Year in September 2017.

## PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND, 26 AND 27 AUGUST, FOR PETER'S PENCE.

Through the Peter's Pence Collection, we unite with the Holy Father as he reaches out to our brothers and sisters suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and religious persecution. We stand in solidarity with Catholics all over the world to support the charitable works and outreach of the Holy See.



The Peter's Pence Collection derives its name from an ancient custom. In ninth-century England, King Alfred the Great collected money, a 'penny', from landowners as financial support for the Pope. Today, the Peter's Pence Collection supports the Pope's philanthropy by giving the Holy Father the means to provide emergency assistance to those in need because of natural disaster, war, oppression, and disease.

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

## SUMMER PARISH BRUNCH

We are holding a summer brunch on Sunday **10 September** after 9.00 am Mass. Tickets are £5.00 per person and £12.00 per family. These will be available after all Masses.



## HELPERS NEEDED

We need helpers for the Summer Brunch. If you can help please phone Rose Horne on 01525 750 188 or Pat King on 01525 402 598.

## CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will be meet again on **6 September**.



Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **11 September**



from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.

**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** will meet again on **4 September** at 7.30 pm at 80 George Street, Maulden. You are very welcome to join us to pray for your family intentions in full confidentiality. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.



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

## Valerie Jones, RIP

Please remember in your prayers Valerie Jones who died recently. There will be a Funeral Service here on **Wednesday 30 August** at 10.00 am. All our sympathy and prayers go to Valarie's husband Doug, and her family.



Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 19 and 20 August the total was £463.83. With thanks, Finance Committee.

## CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR AUGUST – PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

We pray for all those who suffer persecution. Almighty God, who has taught us through your Son, Jesus Christ, that those who follow him may be persecuted: strengthen, comfort and encourage all those who suffer harassment, violence, imprisonment and even death for being followers of Jesus. Amen



## INFORMATION

### CONFESSION

Confession will be on Saturday evening at 5.30 pm and THIS 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](mailto:safeguarding@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)

### CHURCH NEWSLETTER ONLINE

at <http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk>

### IN HOSPITAL, SICK OR HOUSEBOUND?

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](mailto: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	26 August	6.00 pm	Mrs Mary Nolan, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday	27 August	11.00 am	Liam Spillane, Anniversary, RIP
Monday	28 August	9.30 am	Eileen Rogers, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	29 August		Fr. Nathaniel's day off
Wednesday	30 August	10.00 am	Funeral Service for Valerie Jones
Wednesday	30 August	7.30 pm	James Cato, Recently Deceased, RIP
Thursday	31 August	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Friday	1 September	9.30 am	Shamus McCann, Recently Deceased, RIP

**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, 26 and 27 August		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Pat Rees
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Maggie Dullaghan	Una McAlinden
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Wilson	Catherine Davies
Driver		Kate Mansford
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 2 and 3 September		
Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Michael Burgess	Bernadette Basterfield
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Emma Burgess	Victoria Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Martin Stynes
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Burgess	Clare Bevan
Driver		William Doyle