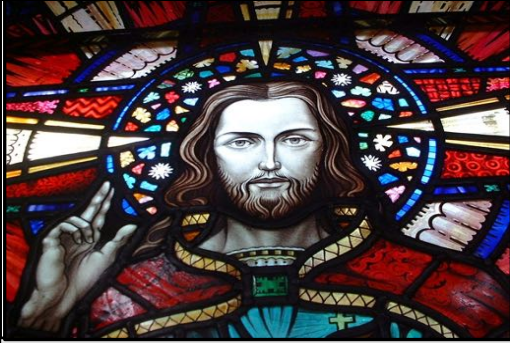


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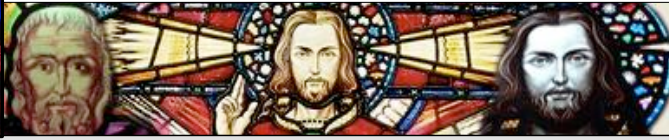
28 January 2018

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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



 Follow us on Facebook

Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton
Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP

Contact: 01525 715 109, 07711 953 926, www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Parish Priest, **Father John Danford**

sacredheartlb@btinternet.com, 01525 372 321

Parish Deacon, **Deacon Philip Pugh**

deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926

Pastoral Administrator, **Suzanne Yates**

secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 21 January the total was £409.82. With thanks, Finance Committee.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord– 2 February

According to Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God. The parents had to 'buy him back' on the fortieth day after his birth, by offering a sacrifice of 'a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons' in the temple, thus, the presentation of the child. (Luke 2:24) On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified, thus, the purification.



Mary and Joseph kept this law, though since Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Christ she would not have had to go through ritual purification. In his Gospel, Luke recounts the story (Luke 2:22-39). By the last quarter of the fourth century, the Church at Rome had begun to celebrate the Nativity on 25 December, so the Feast of the Presentation was celebrated on 2 February, 40 days later. When Christ was presented in the temple, Simeon embraced the child and prayed the Cantic of Simeon: 'Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel' (Luke 2:29-32).

Why Candlemas?

Inspired by the words of the canticle (a light to the revelation of the Gentiles), by the 11th century, the custom had developed in the West of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation. The candles were then lit, and a procession took place through the darkened church while the Cantic of Simeon was sung. Because of this, the feast also became known as Candlemas. Candlemas is still an important feast in many European countries.

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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for		
Mass	This Sunday, 28 January	Next Sunday, 4 February
1 st Reading	Noreen Weighell	Maggie Dullaghan
2 nd Reading	Catherine Davies	Dee Brady
Eucharistic	Carols Rincon	Martin Stynes
Eucharistic	Myriam Rincon	Nicky Paterson
Driver	Kate Mansford	David Toland

TODAY'S GOSPEL IS FROM MARK 1:21-28.

An exorcism is the casting out of an evil spirit from a person. It must be remembered that our knowledge of mental and physical illness is far greater than that of New Testament times. Some of the exorcism stories describe conditions, which today we would recognise as mental illness or in some cases, epilepsy. This is not to say, however, that evil does not exist. Many Christians believe it is possible for a person to be influenced and even possessed by a force which is the opposite of good, namely evil.

The first exorcism in Mark's Gospel is that of the demoniac in Capernaum. Jesus shows his authority and commands the evil spirits to go and they flee. The story is important for two main reasons. Firstly, it contains the title 'The Holy one of God', a title found only in this passage. It is a Messianic title showing Jesus as the Messiah, the long-awaited representative of God who would establish God's kingdom on earth.

Secondly, it is obvious that Mark makes little distinction among the words 'teaching', 'healing' and 'preaching'. Look at the comment of the crowd after the healing of the man. All three actions form part of the one mission to offer the kingdom of God to all. This is possible through the authority of Jesus.

Adapted from *The Word of God, Year B* by Robin Cooper

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	28 January	9.00 am	Intentions of Nolette Hanley and George Ormai, Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday	30 January	9.30 am	Mary Connolley, Recently Deceased, RIP
Wednesday	31 January	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion with Exposition
Friday	2 February	10.00 am	Angelo Miazzi, Recently Deceased, RIP

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR JANUARY CHRISTIAN UNITY

Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who bear your name and seek to serve you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love one another in humility. May we who have been reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under one shepherd. Amen.

Sacred Heart 100 CLUB

Over the last two years your support for this venture has so far raised £1,627. Well done and many thanks.

Our new year starts **1 February** when subscriptions are due for renewal. Those paid by standing order should be automatically renewed, and those who paid by cheque or cash should let Peter Leatherland have their subscription.

Full details will be sent to all concerned.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS



The second part of this baptism preparation class will be held on **Saturday 3 February**, starting at 10.00 am for one hour in the St Francis Suite.

FOODBANK

The Need Project would like to thank everyone for their continued support. At the moment they would like **small bags of sugar (500g) and tinned peas** if that is possible but everything is gratefully received.



CHURCH CLEANING TEAM APPEAL

We are looking for volunteers to join the church cleaning rota.

The current team numbers have been depleted due to family commitments and ill health.

So that each team cleans the church once every ten weeks, we are looking for three new teams (teams generally work in pairs).

Please consider if you could offer your time. Speak to a friend/neighbour in church and volunteer together. The church can be cleaned on a weekday, in the evening or on Saturdays.

This is a vital but unseen role for our church.

If you would like to discuss it further or put your name forward, please email Catherine Davies

catherinedavies2010@icloud.com



Youth Alpha Programme will continue on Saturday 24 February with the question *How does God guide us?*

It starts at 4.30 pm. and finish by 6.00 pm.

For more information contact Maggie or Helen on youcat@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

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

Feast of St John Bosco (1815-1888) 31 January

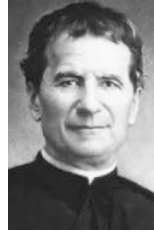
He was born in Piedmont of a peasant family, brought up by his widowed mother.

He became a priest and his particular concern was for the young. He settled in Turin, where, as in so many cities in the 19th century, the industrial revolution

was bringing enormous movements of population and consequent social problems, especially for the young men who came there to work. John Bosco devoted himself to the care of the young, first of all by means of evening classes to which hundreds came. Then he set up a boarding-house for apprentices, and workshops for their training and education.

Despite many difficulties caused both by the anti-clerical civil authorities and by the opposition of some senior people within the Church, his enterprise grew, and by 1868 over 800 boys and young men were under his care. To ensure the continuation of his work, he founded a congregation which he named after St Francis de Sales (a saint for whom he had great admiration), and today the Salesians continue his work all over the world.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing



ASHES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

The ashes for Ash Wednesday are made from burning the palms given out on Palm Sunday the year before.

Deacon Philip wants to make the ashes this year, and asks everyone to return their palms to the church by **11 February** so they can be rendered into ash.

Please place your palms in the basket in the foyer.



NOTICE

Just to let you know we have had a letter of thanks from the Prebend Centre for our donation of over 1,400 items last Christmas.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

Please keep this date in your diaries **SATURDAY 16 JUNE AT 2.00 PM** at the Sacred Heart Church, Flitwick for a pre-pilgrimage get together.

Thank you, Ros Penn

Information

CONFESSION

Confession will be at 8.40 am on Sunday and at 9.45 am on Friday.

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

<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 10.30 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 at deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

MASS INTENTIONS

For Mass intentions contact Deacon Philip who will arrange for Fr. John or another local priest to say a Mass.

Tea and coffee will be available after Mass on Sunday. All welcome.



Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday, **29 January** 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 634186. We meet fortnightly.



The sewing group will start again after Easter. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will be meet on **31 January**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

