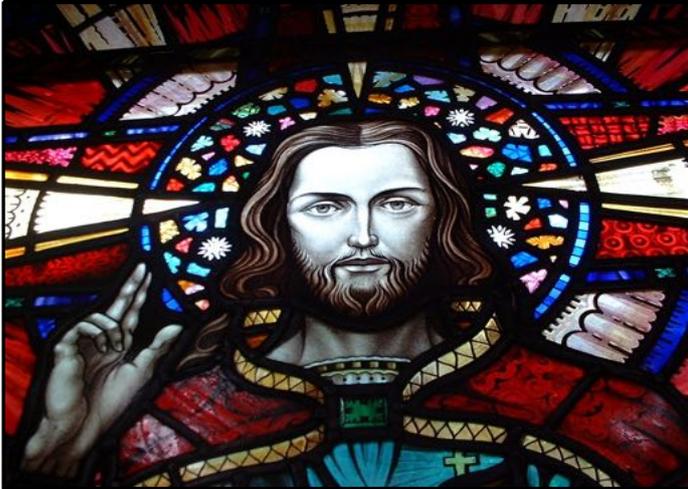


newsletter



27 and 28 May 2017

Feast of the Ascension



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

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Suzanne Yates, Parish Secretary secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



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The Ascension of the Lord

The Gospel today is taken from Matthew (28:16-20).

The last five verses of Matthew's Gospel contain the commissioning of the disciples after the resurrection. It is given to the Church of which the disciples are representatives.

The risen Jesus is Lord of the Church. Now is the moment to send out the disciples to do the work of the Church. Jesus, as the risen Lord, has the authority of God. Now he is sending them out.

1. They are to baptise all nations in the name of the Trinity. Baptism is the initiation into the community of the Church. It would seem that from the very beginning, baptism has been administered with running water and in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. They are to teach. When Jesus commissions them to teach all his commands, he is telling them to continue to do his work. As far as Matthew is concerned the teaching of Jesus is contained in the five discourses incorporated in his Gospel; the Sermon on the Mount (Ch.5-7); the Missionary Discourse (Ch.10); the Parable Discourse (Ch.13); the Discourse on the Church (Ch.18), and the Discourse on the Last Things (Ch.24-25).
3. The final words are an assurance that Jesus will always be with the Church, even after the Ascension, when he has returned to his Father. The Lord of the Church will never desert her. He is with us to the end.



Adapted from *The Word of God, Year A Luke's Gospel* by Robin Cooper

As next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday we would like everyone to wear **RED** to church to celebrate receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Important Announcement about the Future of the Parish

I have heard that things are going to change in the parish. What will be happening?

(Each week we will try to answer some of the questions that have been raised.)

We are changing our parish priest. Fr. John Danford who is responsible for Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard will become our parish priest from 1 October 2017.

Bishop Peter has agreed that Canon Bennie will be the parish priest of Shefford and Biggleswade, and Fr. John will become our parish priest, while remaining responsible for Leighton Buzzard. This change has become necessary after the retirement on health grounds of Fr. Richard Moroney at Biggleswade.

We will see Mass times change on Sunday and during the week, to allow Fr. John to celebrate Mass for both communities. Deacon Philip remains our deacon and will continue in his role of pastoral administrator assisting Fr. John in managing the life and work of our parish here in Flitwick.

Bishop Peter has set up Pastoral Areas across the diocese, and given them the responsibility for managing the number of priests they have to serve their parishes. Our pastoral area covers the area of Central Beds council, and includes five parishes.

See the back of the church for a copy of Bishop Peter's letter explaining these changes.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 10 JUNE 2017

We have booked a coach for the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham.

We arrive in time for Mass with Bishop Peter at 12 midday. At 3.00 pm there will be a short procession along the pilgrim route from the Chapel of Reconciliation to the priory grounds, where there will be a short service.



The coach will leave at 8.00 am and we return as soon as it is over. You will need a packed lunch. The cost will be £30. Please pay Deacon Philip by the 4 June at the latest.

Sacred Heart 100 CLUB

In the latest draw for May, the lucky winners were Thomas Cahill, Bernice Banks, Mick Fagan.

Thank you for your weekly contribution. For 13 and 14 May the total was £484.70; this is less than needed to meet the parish running costs. For the 20 and 21 May the total was £459.07; this is less than needed to meet the parish running costs. With thanks, Finance Committee.



PENTECOST IN THE PARK

Amphill and Flitwick Churches Together



Near the Hub in Amphill Park

NEXT Sunday 4 June

2.30 pm – Service at 3.15 pm

Celebrate the Church's Birthday

Children's activities from 2.30 pm

Birthday Cake for All

RETIRING COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection this weekend **27 and 28 May**. This collection is a contribution to the Church's media evangelisation campaign through television, radio, the Internet and special projects in the Catholic press. This is an annual collection taken up in the diocese. Gift Aid envelopes are available. Please be as generous as you can.



BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS

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



MASS FOR THE SICK

This year's Mass for the sick will be celebrated on Friday **23 June** at 2.00 pm. Once again the SVP are organising this very special afternoon. Canon Bennie, assisted by Deacon Philip, will be celebrating the Mass during which the anointing of the sick will take place. Everyone is very welcome to attend. Refreshments will be offered after Mass by the SVP in the parish room. If you need help with transport or any further information, please contact John Flanagan on 01525 406 810



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **7 June**. 30 pm till 9.30 pm. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **12 June** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



THE FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – 31 MAY

This is a fairly late feast, going back to the only 13th or 14th century. It was established widely throughout the Church to pray for unity. The present date of celebration was set in 1969, in order to follow the Annunciation of the Lord and precede the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.



Like most feasts of Mary, it is closely connected with Jesus and his saving work. The more visible actors in the visitation drama (see Luke 1:39-45) are Mary and Elizabeth. However, Jesus and John the Baptist steal the scene in a hidden way. John, upon the arrival of Mary, leapt in the womb of his mother; he was then cleansed from original sin and filled with the grace of God. Elizabeth, in turn, was filled with the Holy Spirit and addressed words of praise to Mary – words that echo down through the ages.

It is helpful to recall that we do not have a journalist's account of this meeting. Rather, Luke, speaking for the Church, gives a prayerful poet's rendition of the scene. Elizabeth's praise of Mary as 'the mother of my Lord' can be viewed as the earliest Church's devotion to Mary. As with all authentic devotion to Mary, Elizabeth's (the Church's) words first praise God for what God has done to Mary. Only secondly does she praise Mary for trusting God's words.

Then comes the *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55). Here, Mary herself – like the Church – traces all her greatness to God.

Adapted from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org>

MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet on **5 June**. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. Meetings are at 80 George St, Maulden. Contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.



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



We welcome Luca, son of Christina and Craig Maclachlan, who will be baptised into the Catholic community today. We ask the whole parish to pray for him and his whole family on this special day. We wish him and his family all God's blessings on their journey of faith.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR MAY – VOCATIONS

O God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe. I join him in praying for labourers for your harvest. May your Holy Spirit inspire women and men to continue his mission through your priesthood, diaconate, religious life and lay ministry. May this same Spirit make known your will for my life.



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	27 May	6.00 pm	Intentions of John and Jo Fletcher
Sunday	28 May	11.00 am	Dan Connell, Recently Deceased, RIP
Monday	29 May	9.30 am	Roy and Tina Stayner, RIP
Tuesday	30 May		No Service
Wednesday	31 May	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	1 June		No Service
Friday	2 June	9.30 am	People of the Parish

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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 27 and 28 May		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Mary Brown	Kate Mansford
2 nd Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Pat Rees
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	John Flanagan	Clare Bevan
Driver		Louis Chadwick
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 3 and 4 June		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Angela Bartlett	Bernadette Basterfield
2 nd Reading	Pat Crowe	Victoria Basterfield
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Don Perrett	Ros Penn
Driver		Kate Mansford