

newsletter



28 and 29 January 2017

4th 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



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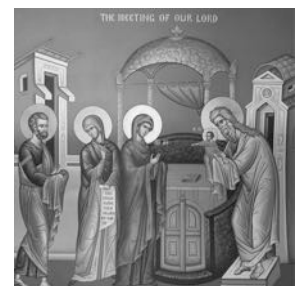


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2 February – Presentation of the Lord also known as Candlemas

According to Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God, and 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).



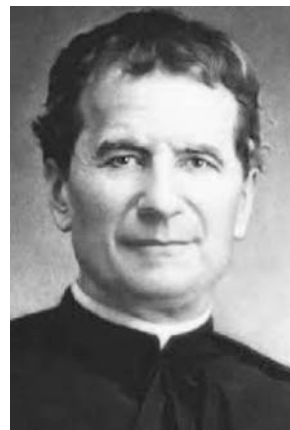
Why Candlemas?

Inspired by the words of the cantic (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>

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

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

FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL – MATTHEW 5: 1-12

This famous opening to Matthew's first discourse, the Sermon on the Mount, contains the Beatitudes. It would be a mistake to think that Matthew is listing the qualities of the afterlife in heaven. In his Gospel, the 'kingdom of heaven' stands for the embryonic Christian community. He is outlining the qualities of the Christian life and the reward such qualities bring in the here and now.

'Poor in spirit' does not mean feeble or downtrodden, it means recognising a dependence on God. That is the initial way into the community of Christ. The gentle, that is those who do not seek power or are belligerent in their dealings with others, will inherit the earth. This has always been so but not many lessons are learned from history. Those who mourn not just a personal bereavement but have an acute sense of sorrow of people's sufferings, will be comforted. Those who work tirelessly for justice and human rights will be satisfied. The merciful will find mercy and the pure in heart will see God because God is perfect. The peacemakers, not those who pray for peace but those whose motives are reconciliation, are the sons of God whose Son was the Prince of Peace. The persecuted will also be found in the community of Christ as will those who are slandered and abused.



All these qualities of the Christian life will bring their own reward.

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR NEW PARENTS

The second part of this baptism preparation class will be held on Saturday **4 February**, starting at 10.00 am for one hour in the St Francis Suite. We look forward to seeing you and your family. Godparents and grandparents are welcome to join us.



We thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 21 and 22 1 January the total was £432.90; this is £117.10 less than what is needed to meet the parish running costs. With thanks, Finance Committee.

3 February – Feast of St Dunstan of Canterbury (?- 988)

His career began at Glastonbury, where he became abbot in 945. In 960 he became Archbishop of Canterbury, where he remained until his death on 19 May 988. He worked hard for the spiritual and temporal well-being of his people, restoring churches, judging lawsuits, defending the weak and friendless, reforming institutions and even promoting the draining of parts of the Somerset Levels so that they could be used for agriculture. In folklore he figures in many duels with the Devil, which he wins by ingenuity as much as by holiness.



Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting is on **1 February**, 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 **13 February** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet on **6 February**. We meet from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm. This meeting will be at **73 Fallowfield, Ampthill**. Contact Sue Barley on 01525 634 186.



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



Sacred Heart - 100 CLUB

End of year one, you have raised the sum of £814 for the parish. Well done and many thanks. Our new year starts **1 February** when subscriptions are due for renewal. Those who 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.

BOOK CLUB

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY 9 MARCH AT 7.30 PM

In the Home of Ros Penn



New members made very welcome and we will chat about this book, *The Fisherman: A Novel* by Larry Huntsperger. Few New Testament characters are as fascinating as Simon, the man called Peter, a reluctant disciple who changed the face of Christianity. For more than twenty-five years, author and pastor Larry Huntsperger has spent hundreds of hours studying New Testament documents in preparation for writing this fictional first-person account of the life of this disciple.

ST VALENTINE'S FAMILY SUNDAY LUNCH

As the world celebrates love on St Valentine's Day come and celebrate God's love for us on Sunday **12 February**. Enjoy a family Sunday lunch in the Canon Denis room after 11.00 am Mass.



Tickets £5.00 per family, bring your own drink, soft drinks included. Tickets available after Mass this weekend.

Due to limited space it will be first come, first served.

For those with faith, no explanation is necessary. For those without, no explanation is possible. St Thomas Aquinas

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.



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	28 January	6.00 pm	Intentions of Rita Dunne
Sunday	29 January	11.00 am	Private Intentions
Monday	30 January	9.30 am	Intentions of Tony Boyle
Tuesday	31 January		No Service
Wednesday	1 February	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	2 February		No Service
Friday	3 February	9.30 am	Mary and Patrick Clerkin, 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, 28 and 29 January		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Mary Brown	Ann Leatherland
2 nd Reading	Michael Burgess	Pauline Chambers
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Burgess	Nicky Paterson
Driver		Louis Chadwick
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week, 4 and 5 February		
Mass	6.00 pm	11.00 am
1 st Reading	Noreen Weighell	Catherine Davies
2 nd Reading	Angela Bartlett	Dennis Horner
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic Minister	Jane Crow	Martin Stynes
Driver		Kate Mansford