

newsletter



29 and 30 November 2014

First Sunday of Advent, 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

Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP
Tel: 01525 715 109, www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



Times of Mass

Saturday	29 November	6.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Sunday	30 November	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	1 December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion
Tuesday	2 December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	No Service
Wednesday	3 December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	4 December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	No Service
Friday	5 December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Service of the Word and Communion

ADVENT ACTIVITIES AT SACRED HEART

This Advent there will be a number of activities helping us to prepare for Christmas. These are some of the key activities:

- 2 and 9 December – The Joy of the Gospel
- 10 December – The Advent 'Holy Hour' for peace
- 12 December – Foodbank final Christmas Collection
- 14 December – The SVP Giving Tree
- 15 December – Advent Reconciliation Service
- 19 December – Flitwick Singers Carol Concert
- 21 December – Parish Carol Service and Review of our Parish year
- 22 December – Church Cleaning for Christmas



Information about all of these is included in the newsletter each week.

Christmas Masses this year are as follows

Christmas Eve – 24 December

6.00 pm – Mass of Christmas (For family and children)

9.00 pm – Mass of Christmas (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day – 25 December,

10.30 am – Mass of Christmas Day

Deacon Philip writes ...

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin *Adventus*, meaning 'coming'. Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year, when we look forward to the most important coming of all time – the Birth of Our Lord.

Advent is a season of preparation. It has significance because it is pointing towards something greater: first, the annual celebration of Christ's birth, *and* for the time when Christ will come again.

We often find it difficult with all the family arrangements for Christmas to truly focus on the spiritual side of our preparation. To help each of us to get ready, we can rely on the symbols of Advent to guide and encourage us.

The Advent Wreath is one visible sign of the month. The lighting of a new candle every week can be the focus for talking about the coming of Jesus and saying a short prayer. It is easy to make a wreath that



includes a fifth candle to be lit on Christmas day.

Many of us will have an Advent calendar at home. These provide a way of spending even a few moments each day in reflecting on the importance of what we call the 'Incarnation'; the coming of Jesus as a human in order to give us back all that God intended we should have.

We also have a need to be more deeply prepared, by being reconciled to God's love through the Sacrament of Penance (on Monday 15 December) and by setting aside a short, regular time to prayer for a better understanding of Jesus' coming in our lives.

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. Last week the total was £677.97; this is £127.97 more than the amount we need each week to meet the parish running costs and will help us to build up a contingency.

With thanks, Fr. Denis.

Sunday Latin Mass: Fr. Denis celebrates the Latin Mass at 5.00 pm on Sundays. The Mass is from the missal of 1962 and fulfils the Sunday obligation.

THE POST-COMMUNION GROUP

The Post-Communion group will begin today, **30 November**, following 9.00 am Mass, there will be 6 sessions as follows

- 30 November
- 7 December
- 25 January
- 1 February
- 8 March
- 15 March



The group is run for those who have made First Communion and are possibly in school years 4 to 8 and up to Confirmation.

The group is part of the sacramental programme to support children developing a deeper understanding of their faith in the lead up to Confirmation.

We extend a particular welcome to those who received their First Holy Communion this year.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS will

meet on **8 December** for a Christmas celebration at Fratellis in Ampthill. Our next meeting will be on **16 December**. Please ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for more information.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We will not be meeting now until the New Year, as many of us are looking forward to attending The Joy of the Gospel reflections. However we are arranging a social evening for the group on **17 December**. Prayer Group contact Nicky Paterson 01525 750654.



ADVENT HOLY HOUR

There will be a holy 'hour' on Wednesday **10 December** starting at 7.00 pm and ending with benediction at 8.45 pm. The theme of the evening will be praying for peace between and among peoples all over the world. The evening will begin with a short service of prayer and then there will be silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8.45 pm.



Please put this date in your diary and come along, even if you can only for a few minutes.



The next meeting of the Sewing Group will be on **8 December** 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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for this week 29 and 30 November.

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 st Reader	Angela Bartlett	Marion McClurg	Angela Turner
2 nd Reader	Christine Jackson	Pat Crowe	Martin Brennan
Eucharistic	Helen Wilson	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	John Flanagan	Carlos Rincon	Clare Bevan
Driver			John Gallagher

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for next week, 6 and 7 December

Mass	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
1 st Reader	Mary Brown	Alison Braniff	Hugh Davies
2 nd Reader	Pat Rees	Kate Mansford	Eamonn Diver
Eucharistic	Don Perrett	Deacon Philip Pugh	Deacon Philip Pugh
Eucharistic	Sue Barley	Myriam Rincon M	Hilary Brennan
Driver		Marion McClurg	



Follow us on facebook

The last collection for the Need Project (Food Bank) will be **12 December** and Christmas hampers will be distributed the following week. Everyday groceries are needed but Christmas



puddings, mince pies (check the dates as some go out of date before Christmas), chocolates, children's selection packs, tinned ham, fancy biscuits, tinned cream/evaporated milk and jellies are extra items which add a bit of Christmas cheer. The first collection after Christmas will take place on the **9 January**.

Thank you to all who have given so generously over the past year. Please continue to support those less fortunate than ourselves, as these hampers bring hope to many families. Thank you and Happy Christmas to you.

Preparing the Church for Christmas

Dear parishioners, please come along to help with cleaning and decorating the church as we prepare for Christmas. Come on **Monday 22 December** at 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

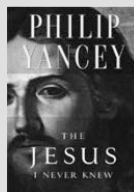
Many hands make light work!

BOOK CLUB

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday **22 January 2015** at 7.30 pm, at Ros Penn's home. New members made very welcome and we will chat about this book. (Refreshments will be served.)

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey



Christmas Raffle

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses on 13 and 14, 20 and 21 December. The raffle will be drawn at our carol service on 21 December. Proceeds will go to church funds.

The Return of the SVP Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is back. Once again the SVP is looking for support for the Day Centre in Bedford for the Homeless and Rootless (BeCHaR). On the first two Sundays in Advent the giving tree will appear again.



We are asking you once again to take as many of the stickers from the tree as you can afford, and then donate the named articles. There is no need to wrap them, simply put them in the box in the church porch.

As usual, we require socks, boxer shorts, gloves, hats, scarves, antiperspirant, shaving foam, razors, and chocolates. They do not have to be top of the range – basic items are really good.

It would be helpful if all donations could be handed in by 13 and 14 December in good time to be delivered for the Christmas festivities at BeCHaR.

Over the past few years your support has been wonderful – so many thanks in advance.

Flitwick Singers

present

Neighbours of the Christ Night

This is a festive concert featuring carols and Christmas favourites for the benefit of Chums, a local charity which supports children who experience bereavement.

On Friday 19 December
at Sacred Heart church

Tickets £6.00

Concert 7.30 pm

Refreshments available, tickets available on the door or contact 01525 714 847



Circle of Prayer for November – Refugees and Migrants

Heavenly Father, no one is stranger to You, and no one is ever far from Your loving care. By Your grace, help us to welcome Your children who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty persecution, violence and war; to banish fear from our hearts that we may embrace each one of them as our own brother and sister, with love and generosity, while responding to their many needs. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who too was a refugee and migrant, who travelled to another land searching for a home.

