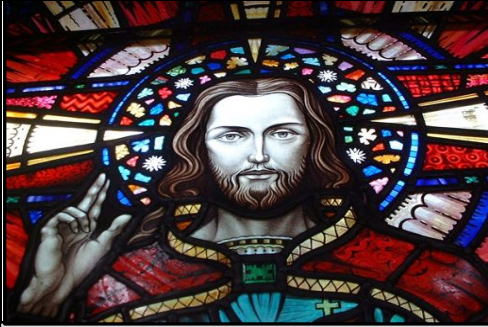


newsletter



31 December 2017

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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

Father John Danford, Parish Priest

Deacon Philip, Pastoral Administrator

Suzanne Yates, Parish Secretary

sacredheartlb@btinternet.com, 01525 372 321

deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926

secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 23 and 24 December the total was £513.75. With thanks, Finance Committee.

The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Holy Family went to the Temple to present Jesus to God according to the Law. There were three ceremonies that followed the birth of a first-born male child. The first was circumcision on the eighth day after birth when the child received his name. The second was Presentation where the child was consecrated to God. This took place within the first month of the child's life. The third was purification in which the mother was required to offer a sacrifice to remove her uncleanness according to the Law. This took place on the fortieth day after birth. It would seem that Luke has confused the latter two into one ceremony.



In the temple was Simeon, a holy man who looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. Taking Jesus in his arms, he utters the Nunc Dimittis, a most admirable summary of all Messianic hope. The Messiah will offer salvation to all nations, Gentiles as well as Jews. After blessing Joseph and Mary, Simeon made strange prophecy which is a difficult saying. Luke, in forecasting the grief our Lady will feel at the death of Jesus, attempts to summarise the whole life and work of Jesus. His life will force all to decide where they stand; each person will have to face the fact of their own sinfulness and this will strip naked one's secret thoughts, and those who recognise their need of God will be raised to new life. The word Luke uses for 'rising' is the one he uses only for resurrection.

Taken from The Word of God, Year B Mark's Gospel by Robin Cooper

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for		
Mass	This Sunday, 31 December	Next Sunday, 7 January
1 st Reading	Kate Mansford	Emma Burgess
2 nd Reading	Judith Latham	Michael Burgess
Eucharistic	Myriam Rincon	Helen Burgess
Eucharistic	Carols Rincon	Jane Crow
Driver		Louis Chadwick

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	31 December	9.00 am	Intentions of James Hart on his 90 th Birthday
Tuesday	2 January	9.30 am	Elaine Jones, Recently Deceased
Wednesday	3 January	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion with Exposition
Friday	5 January	10.00 am	Bernard Merry, RIP

NEW YEAR AND THE NEW SHAPE OF OUR WEEK AT SACRED HEART, FLITWICK

Many people have asked to have a reminder of how our week in Sacred Heart will look now that all the changes have taken effect and Fr. John has taken over fully.

SUNDAY – will see us gather together for one Mass as a community at 9.00 am. Children's liturgy and our sacramental programme will continue as they have in the past. Tea and coffee will be served after the Mass

MONDAY – there will be no Mass and no services as a general rule. The SVP and Our Mother's Prayers will continue to have their meetings group meet on Monday, for more information see the reverse of the Newsletter

TUESDAY – Fr. John will celebrate Mass at 9.30 am.

WEDNESDAY – A service of Word and Communion will be held every week at 7.30 pm, which will include a period of adoration after the service. The Charismatic Prayer group meets on alternate weeks, see the Newsletter for details.

THURSDAY – there will be no Mass and no services as a general rule.

FRIDAY – Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 am each week. The Little 'Uns will meet every week, in term time, from 10.30 am to 12.00 midday, parents and grandparents are welcome with pre-school children for play, a little prayer and a snack

SATURDAY – as a general rule there will be no Mass and no services.

CONFESSIONS – Fr. John will be available for the sacrament of reconciliation before Mass on Friday (from 9.45 am) and on Sunday (from 8.30 am).

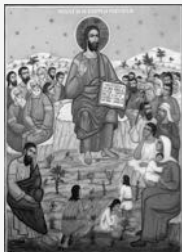
ANNUAL QUIET DAY

Saturday 27 January

As you know Bishop Peter has declared a year of Prayer and Vocation our diocese and we shall have an event each month to highlight this special year. Our annual quiet day is held in January, our first event.

What is a Quiet Day?

A quiet day is a one-day retreat, during which we can enjoy an extended period of prayer and reflection. This day is an opportunity to have a time away from the bustle of everyday life without having to travel too far. It provides an opportunity for us to regain some balance between doing and being. In the familiar setting of our church, you can make this personal time of an hour or more, to recharge your spiritual batteries in the depth of the winter.



A number of 'bases' around the church will guide you through reflections on the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount.

The bases are arranged around the church. You are encouraged to visit the bases in the order that will be set out on the day.

It will be a quiet and reflective time in the church and as a pilgrim we hope you enjoy the spaces during your visit.

MORE INFORMATION NEXT WEEK

BOOK CLUB – Next Meeting Thursday 18 January 2018 at 7.30 pm Ros's home

(Tea/Coffee and Snacks)

The next book we have to

read is: **THE GRACE OUTPOURING: BLESSING OTHERS THROUGH PRAYER** by Roy Godwin and Dave Roberts



ADVENT GIVING TREE 2017

Thank you for your enormous generosity to the annual appeal for goods for the homeless and rootless of Bedford; your response was wonderful. Almost 1400 items were donated, (1391 actually) and these have been delivered safely. Huge thanks to the Flitwick Dolphins who joined in and made a magnificent contribution to the total. Together we have given 232 toothbrushes and 223 pairs of socks, and you have given me enough corned beef to make corned beef stew until June on the Sundays when I am cooking at Prebend.

May God bless everyone for their kindness and generosity

Twelfth Night is a holiday on 5 January that marks the 12th and final night of the Christmas season. Twelfth Night is the eve before the twelfth day of Christmas, or the Epiphany celebration, which commemorates the adoration of the Magi before the infant Jesus.



In Tudor England, Twelfth Night marked the end of a winter festival that started on All Hallow's Eve, which we now celebrate as Halloween. A King, or Lord of Misrule would be appointed to run the Christmas festivities, and Twelfth Night was the end of his period of rule. The theme was that the normal order of things was reversed. This Lord of Misrule tradition can be traced to pre-Christian European festivals such as the Celtic festival of Samhain and the Ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia.

After Twelfth Night the carnival season starts, which lasts through Mardi Gras. In some places such as New Orleans, Louisiana, the night of 6 January with the first carnival celebrations is called Twelfth Night.

Adapted from <http://www.religionfacts.com>

Youth Alpha Programme will continue on Saturday 13

January with the question *How can we have faith?* (This is the question we didn't do on 16 December). It starts at 4.30 pm will finish by 6.00 pm.

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



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.

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



Information

CONFESSION

Confession will be at 8.30 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 on 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 resume in the New Year. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for information. We will meet fortnightly.



The sewing group is taking a break and will start meeting again after Easter. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will be meet on **3 January**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

