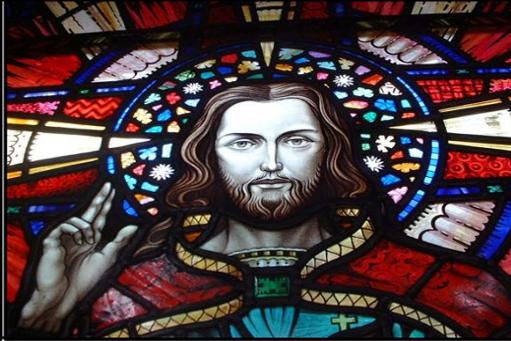


newsletter



11 March 2018

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 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

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Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 4 March the total was £373.49. With thanks, Finance Committee.

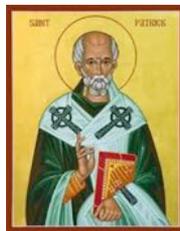
Feast of St Patrick – 17 March

Patrick was believed to have been born in Britain c.387, near the English border with Scotland. His parents were wealthy Roman nobles. His father was a Christian and so Patrick was raised in the Christian faith.

At the age of fourteen Patrick was captured during a Celtic raiding party and taken to Ireland. He was a slave of the Irish and forced to herd and tend sheep. He was a slave for the next six years where he learned the language of the Irish and about their customs and religion. The Irish adhered to the religion of the Druids, whose symbol was the serpent, or snake of wisdom. Patrick escaped from Ireland and returned to Britain and joined his family.

He undertook studies to become a priest, visiting several monasteries in Europe, and was ordained by St Germanus, the bishop of Auxerre. He was appointed as a bishop and due to his experience in Ireland, and his knowledge of the Irish people and the Druids, he was appointed by Pope St Celestine I to evangelise in Ireland. Patrick knew how important the Druids were and made every effort to decrease their power and hold over the Irish people. Hundreds of soldiers supported Saint Patrick to ensure the conversion of Ireland. Churches were built in the sacred places used by the Druids. Druid teachers and wise men were killed and so were thousands of their followers. The Druids were defeated. St Patrick had converted Ireland to Christianity in 33 years. St Patrick died in 464 at Saul, a small village in County Down in Northern Ireland, about two miles from Downpatrick.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis



Rejoicing Sunday, Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent is like the third Sunday of Advent, it is a break in an otherwise penitential season. The vestments for this day are rose as they are on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, and flowers may adorn the altar. This day was called Laetare Sunday (also Rose Sunday), and took its name from the opening words of the Mass, the Introits, 'Laetare, Jerusalem'. It is now called Rejoicing Sunday.

Rejoicing Sunday is also known as Mothering Sunday because of the epistle reading that speaks of how, not the Jews, but those who come to Christ regardless of their ancestry, are the inheritors of Abraham's promise (Galatians 4:22-31).



The old practice of visiting the cathedral, or 'mother church' of the diocese, on this day is another reason for the name. In England, mothers are honoured today. Spring bulb flowers are given to mothers, and simnel cake is made to celebrate the occasion. Eleven pieces of almond paste are rolled into balls and put on top of the cake. These represent the Apostles, less Judas.

The wearing of rose vestments on Laetare Sunday is a custom, originating when as a symbol of joy and hope in the middle of this sombre season, Popes would carry a golden rose in their right hand when returning from the celebration of Mass. As far back as 1051, Pope Leo IX called this custom an 'ancient institution'.

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

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers for		
Mass	This Sunday, 11 March	Next Sunday, 18 March
1 st Reading	Ann Leatherland	Alison Braniff
2 nd Reading	Martin Brennan	Eamonn Diver
Eucharistic	Jane Crow	Helen Wilson
Eucharistic	Anne Gadsden	Chris Till
Driver	Kate Mansford	David Toland

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	11 March	9.00 am	Margaret and Patrick Gibbon, Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday	13 March	9.30 am	Nora Crouch, Recently Deceased, RIP
Wednesday	14 March	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion with Adoration
Friday	16 March	10.00 am	Gladys Johnson Anniversary, RIP

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR MARCH REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, you do not wish the sinner to die but to be converted and live. Bring back the wanderer, strengthen the penitent. Bless your people that they may turn from their sins and live for you alone. Amen.

PLANNED GIVING/GIFT AID



Boxes of offertory envelopes will be available next Sunday, **18 March**.

Many thanks to those parishioners who have elected to make their offerings by standing order. This really does help us in reducing the amount of cash handled each week, and we are still encouraging you to change to this method. With around 65 individuals and families now offering by standing order, we are able to reduce the number of offertory envelope boxes. As usual, boxes are in alphabetical order.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer and have not made a Gift Aid declaration, please consider completing a simple form. The parish will receive an additional 25p for every £1 offered.

After Mass next weekend, John Fletcher will provide copies of the forms and further information on planned giving. He can be contacted on 01525 715 309 or by email plannedgiving@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Churches Together in Flitwick and Ampthill

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Friday 30 March at 10.00 am

Join us to follow the Cross through Ampthill



Starting at St Andrew's church at 10.00 am.

Walking to Ampthill Market Square and finishing at Ampthill Baptist church at about 11.00 am.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN AMPHILL AND FLITWICK (CTA&F)

Prayer Spaces for Lent 2018

These are based on titles that Jesus gave himself as recorded in the Gospel of John – the 'I am' sayings. Below are the churches and their dates.

Date	Church	Theme
17 March	Ampthill Baptist	'I am the light of the world' John 8:12, 9:5
24 March	St Andrew's Ampthill	'I am the good shepherd' John 10:11, 14

You are welcome to attend all or some of these open churches.

Newsletter copy deadline – Thursday midday.

Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates; 01525 840 661; suz_yates@btinternet.com

THEME FOR LENT CONTEMPLATIVE – CENTRING PRAYER

The Year of Prayer and Vocation calendar asks us to focus on the Consecrated Life in February. Many orders of religious practise contemplative prayer as part of their daily life, so we have taken as our Lenten theme their style of prayer.



Deacon Philip will lead the last session, on **Tuesday 13 March** starting at 7.30 pm.

This CAFOD Family Fast Day, our parish raised £637.23 to help end hunger and poverty around the world. This has been doubled by the UK Government, meaning a total of £1274.46 has been raised so more of our brothers and sisters can live lives free from hunger. Thank you!

SECOND COLLECTION FOR NORTHAMPTON

DIOCESAN PRIESTS' FUND

(FORMERLY THE COLLECTION FOR RETIRED AND SICK CLERGY)

TODAY, 11 MARCH

We are grateful to all who have supported Together in Faith which has made a significant contribution to the cost of providing for our sick and retired clergy. But while this has bought us several year's grace, the need for supporting our clergy remains, which is why we continue to ask for support. In addition, as 60 per cent of the parish did not subscribe to Together in Faith, and as there have been many new people join the parish since the campaign, it is only fair that we give these people a chance to contribute.



LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION MONDAY 19 MARCH AT 7.30 PM

Prepare for the season of Easter by joining us for the service of reconciliation. After a short liturgy of prayer, readings and preparation there is the opportunity for a personal act of confession with our local priests.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

We are holding the Stations of the Cross during Lent this year. They will be led by Deacon Philip.



The dates for the services are:

† **Thursday 15 March** at 7.30 pm

† **Thursday 22 March** at 7.30 pm

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 Suzanne Yates 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, **26 March** 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 on **9 April** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will be meet on **28 March**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

