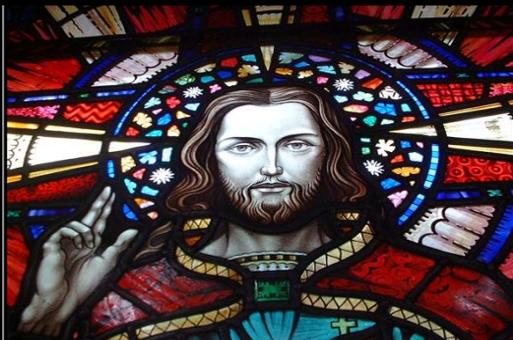


newsletter



18 March 2018

Fifth 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



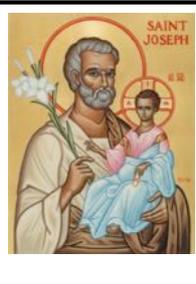
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 Contact: 01525 715 109, 07711 953 926, www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk
 Parish Priest, **Father John Danford** sacredheartlb@btinternet.com, 01525 372 321
 Parish Deacon, **Deacon Philip Pugh** deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926
 Pastoral Administrator, **Suzanne Yates** secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 11 March the total was £517.84. With thanks, Finance Committee.

Feast of St Joseph – 19 March

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: a just man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts. When the Bible speaks of God 'justifying' someone, it means that God, the all-holy or 'righteous' one, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God's own holiness, and hence it is really 'right' for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not.



By saying Joseph was 'just,' the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God. The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage.

It is no contradiction of Joseph's manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this 'quietly' because he was 'a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame' (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God, in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

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

Today's Gospel, John 12:20-30

As we move nearer to the Passion of Jesus, we find, in this passage of John's Gospel, a clear statement of the death of Jesus. The request of some Greeks to the Apostle Philip has been asked many times throughout the centuries: 'We should like to see Jesus'. The word see should be interpreted not just as visual sight, but as insight into the meaning of the purpose of Jesus.



In reply Jesus stated that the tie has come for him to be glorified, a phrase used in this Gospel for death and resurrection. The image of the seed is used to convey this truth. A grain of wheat is buried in the ground, and to all intents and purpose, it is dead. Through such an action, however, a new life comes and a harvest is reaped. So will it be with Jesus. Soon he will die, and through the resurrection, a harvest will be reaped as people respond to him.

Such response will not be easy. The person who lives for Christ will receive eternal life. He must follow Jesus along the same path of self-denial. The story ends with the death of Jesus being forecast in terms of a struggle between good and evil. The voice from heaven confirms that Jesus will be glorified. This signals the fact that the moment has arrived when evil will be defeated. This will happen through crucifixion, when Jesus is 'lifted from the earth'. That will be the moment which will draw people to him and responses will be made.

Adapted from *The Word of God, Mark's Gospel*, by Robin Cooper

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Drivers		
Mass	This Sunday, 18 March	Next Sunday, 25 March
1 st Reading	Alison Braniff	Brendan Spillane
2 nd Reading	Eamonn Diver	Siobhan Campbell
Eucharistic	Helen Wilson	Myriam Rincon
Eucharistic	Chris Till	Carlos Rincon
Driver	David Toland	C.J.J. Gallagher

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	18 March	9.00 am	Mary Ellen Toolis, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	20 March	9.30 am	Jock Williamson, Recently Deceased, RIP
Wednesday	21 March	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion with Adoration
Friday	23 March	10.00 am	Vincent Page and Christine Page, Recently Deceased, 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 this Sunday.

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 this 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

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 next service is: † **Thursday 22 March** at 7.30 pm

Sacred Heart Flitwick 100 CLUB

The latest draw took place on 11 March and the lucky winners were
 First Margaret Kosh
 second Seb Dunn and
 third Maria Curtin.



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
24 March	St Andrew's Ampt Hill	'I am the good shepherd' John 10:11, 14

You are welcome to the last session

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

AN INVITATION TO THE CHRISM MASS THURSDAY 29 MARCH

Again this year, we are organising a trip to attend the annual service when Bishop Peter blesses the sacred oils used in baptism, confirmation and healing throughout the coming year. The Mass begins at 11.00 am – we need to leave Flitwick at 9.15 am to ensure a good seat! The diocese provides a buffet lunch following the Mass. We will get back to Flitwick around 3.00 pm. Please complete a reply slip or speak directly to Deacon Philip, to enable us to arrange pooled transport, deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk



Preparing the Church for Easter

Dear Parishioners, Please come along to help clean and decorate the church for Easter. Come on **Tuesday 27 March** at 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.
Many hands make light work!



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.



Churches Together in Flitwick and Ampt Hill

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Friday 30 March at 10.00 am
 Join us to follow the Cross through Ampt Hill.

Starting at St Andrew's church at 10.00 am. Walking to Ampt Hill Market Square and finishing at Ampt Hill Baptist church at about 11.00 am.



The second collection for Northampton diocesan priests' fund raised £205.15. Thank you for your support.

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 **21 March**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

