



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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Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton
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Thank you for your weekly contribution to the parish. For 1 April the total was £217.05. With thanks, Finance Committee.

Divine Mercy Sunday

This Sunday was once known as Low Sunday, low because it follows the highs of Easter Sunday. These highs were especially experienced by adults who had a long and searching preparation for the joyous experience of being admitted to, and of receiving baptism at Easter. This Sunday is now known as Mercy Sunday. It was designated so by Pope John Paul II, on the day of the canonisation of Saint Faustina Kowalska. It was to Saint Faustina that Jesus had revealed himself, declaring his mercy and humanity's need for that mercy. Jesus had asked for this celebration, to reveal once again his great mercy and to rediscover it in the events of Holy Week and Easter.

The struggle to find and renew faith in the mercy of God is especially remembered on this Sunday. In today's gospel Jesus appears to his disillusioned disciples. Today's Gospel tells us: 'He showed them his hands and his side'. Their disillusionment ends 'The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord ...' When the heart of Jesus is pierced, the mercy of God is



poured out on our world. Jesus gives us his all. He asks us to come to him in the highs and lows of our lives. Today's Gospel reminds us how he takes the initiative in a new relationship in which he desires to give of himself

to all who come to him. He helps us in weakness, in doubt, in our search for meaning. We may approach him without any fear. He receives us with his peace. Thomas the Apostle was a reluctant believer. He wilfully stood aside from and dismissed the testimony of the early witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus. When Jesus appears to the doubting Thomas he invited him: 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt

no longer but believe.' His wounds brought healing to Thomas's unbelief, and reassurance of his love for the world. By Thomas's doubt we are invited to the same source of divine mercy: 'By his wounds we have been healed!'

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

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

Mass	This Sunday, 8 April	Next Sunday, 15 April
1 st Reading	Catherine Davies	Dee Brady
2 nd Reading	Noreen Weighell	Maggie Dullaghan
Eucharistic	Martin Stynes	Hilary Brennan
Eucharistic	John Flanagan	Pat King
Driver	William Doyle	Ros Penn

SAVE THE DATE!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 9 JUNE 2017

This year we would like to organise a coach to go on the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham. We need to know how many parishioners would be interested in going. There will be a sign-on sheet in the foyer. If you would like to go please put your name and contact details on the sheet

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	8 April	9.00 am	Private Intentions and Donald Rogers, Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday	10 April	9.30 am	Paula Rankin, Recently Deceased, RIP
Wednesday	11 April	12.30 pm	Funeral service for Emanuel Sordon, RIP
Wednesday	11 April	7.30 pm	Service of the Word and Communion with Adoration
Friday	13 April	10.00 am	Oliver Trainor, Recently Deceased, RIP James Bunker, Recently Deceased, RIP

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR APRIL

ALL NEWLY BAPTISED CATHOLICS

Heavenly Father, in your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours. Surround all newly baptised with your love, and protect them from evil. Fill them with the Holy Spirit and receive them into the family of your church, and let them grow in your love. Amen

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION – 9 APRIL

The feast of the Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the angel Gabriel's appearance to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38), his announcement that the Blessed Virgin had been chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord, and Mary's *fiat*¹ her willing acceptance of God's holy plan.



It is celebrated on 25 March, but as it falls in Holy Week this year the celebration is transferred to the Monday after Divine Mercy Sunday, that is, 9 April.

Originally a feast of our Lord but now celebrated as a Marian feast, the feast of the Annunciation dates back at least to the fifth century. The date of the feast, which is determined by the date of Christmas, was set at 25 March by the seventh century.

The Annunciation as much as or even more so than Christmas represents Christ's Incarnation. When Mary signalled to Gabriel her acceptance of God's will, Christ was conceived in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. While most of the fathers of the Church say that Mary's *fiat* was essential to God's plan of salvation, God foresaw Mary's acceptance of his will from all eternity.

The narrative of the Annunciation testifies powerfully to the truth of the Catholic tradition that Mary was indeed a virgin when Christ was conceived, but also that she intended to remain one. Mary's response to Gabriel: 'How shall this be done, because I know not man?' (Luke 1:34) was universally interpreted by the fathers of the Church as a statement of the Mary's resolution to remain a virgin forever.

¹*Fiat* – Latin for will be

Adapted from <http://catholicism.about.com>

LADIES' AFTERNOON TEA 22 MAY AT 2.00 PM

There will be afternoon tea on the above date for conversation and friendship.



A limited number of tickets will be available soon at £3.00.

Thank you for your support over Easter. The collection for the Holy Places raised £325.25 and the collection for the Clergy was £1303.10.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER

Wednesday 18 April

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. During April we will be concentrating on charismatic prayer and you are invited to attend a meeting.



The Charismatic Prayer group meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month, after the Service of Word and Communion. We meet to give praise, thanks, honour, and love to Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. It is a time where we come to give room to the Holy Spirit to move in our lives.

We have a time of praise and worship, and use the Gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy (listening to what God may be saying to us), and the gift of tongues (Cor 1:12). It is a time to come as we are and allow the Spirit to move into our lives.

JOIN OUR EASTER PILGRIMAGE

Pope Francis calls us to step out in solidarity with people on the move.

Central Bedfordshire pastoral area will be holding a series of walks which you are invited to join.

Each stage is about 10 miles / or about four hours with a shorter option of 4-5 miles / about two hours.

14 April Biggleswade to Shefford
21 April Shefford to Flitwick
28 April Flitwick to Leighton Buzzard
05 May Leighton Buzzard to Dunstable

Ways to be involved :

- Please pray for refugees and migrants and the success of this pilgrimage
- Register to walk on one or more of the five staged scenic countryside walks
- Invite others - family, friends, MPs, councillors, people of other faiths and non.
- Volunteer to help organise the stage at your parish
- Welcome walkers and join in with reflections and prayers at your church at 2.00 pm

SEE FOYER FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

EMANUEL KONSTANTIN SORDON, RIP

Please remember Emanuel Sordon in your prayers. His funeral will be held on Wednesday 11 April at 12.30 pm. All our sympathy and prayers go to



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.

Everyone is welcome to come for tea and coffee after Sunday Mass.



Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday, **9 April** 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 **18 April**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

