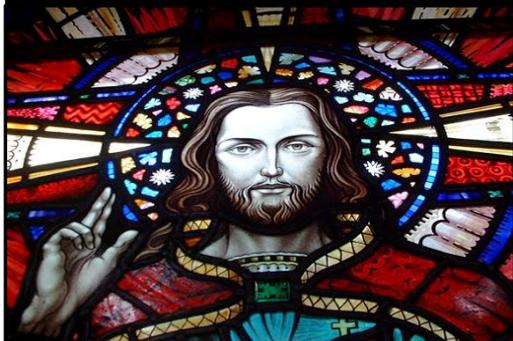


newsletter



16 December 2018

Third Sunday of Advent, Year C



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

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Parish Deacon, **Deacon Philip Pugh** deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk, 07711 953 926

Pastoral Administrator, **Suzanne Yates** secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Thank you for your contribution to the parish. For 9 December the offertory was £513.60 and standing orders were £623.00. The second collection was £67.80.

GAUDETE SUNDAY – WHY IS ONE CANDLE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS?

Advent and its counterpart, Lent, are seasons of penitence. On the Advent wreath, the three purple candles mark the preparation Christians undergo while awaiting the arrival of Christ on Earth.

But, unlike our Lent, Advent is usually a happy season, full of food, parties, shopping, music and lights.

So, why do we need a reminder to rejoice on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday (Latin for 'rejoice') by lighting a rose-coloured candle on our wreaths and having priests wear rose-coloured vestments at Mass?

Because the happiness that comes from fun and friends is not the same thing as Christian joy.

Pope Francis has talked about the difference between happiness and joy:

'To be happy is good, yet joy is something more. It's another thing, something which does not depend on external motivations, or on passing issues: it is more profound. It is a gift. To be "happy at all moments, at all cost" can, at the end, turn into superficiality and shallowness. This leaves us without Christian wisdom. All is joy ... no, joy is something else; it is a gift from the Lord.'

If joy is a gift from the Lord, then the Lord himself is our first and greatest gift, and the only one that will never tarnish or break or fade. Gaudete Sunday reminds us that the gift has not yet arrived, but it is very near.



Adapted from <https://catholicvote.org>

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We are having a Christmas raffle this year to raise funds for the St Francis Suite. Tickets are on sale after Mass at a £1 a ticket. The raffle will be drawn at the Carol concert today at 3.00 pm.



Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

Mass	This Sunday, 16 December	Next Sunday, 23 December
1 st Reading	Kate Mansford	Noelette Hanley
2 nd Reading	Suzanne Yates	Alison Braniff
Eucharistic	Clare Bevan	Anne Gadsden
Eucharistic	Jane Crow	Nicky Paterson
Driver	William Doyle	Kate Mansford

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle Three

Celebrant: He will exult with joy over you. He will renew you by his Love.

Deacon: Come, Lord Jesus, bring to this broken world the love and peace of God.



Third Sunday of Advent

The Third Candle on the Wreath is lit.

ALL: REJOICE FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	16 December	9.00 am	Intentions of Calvin Smart Donna Spillane, Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday	18 December	9.30 am	Intentions of Sarah Bell – in Thanksgiving
Wednesday	19 December	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion
Friday	21 December	10.00 am	Margaret McCarthy, RIP

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR DECEMBER REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees, migrants and victims of war. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need.

THE O ANTHEMS

The O Antiphons are used as the introduction and conclusion to the Magnificat at Evening Prayer and as the text of the Gospel Acclamation during the final days of Advent, 17 to 23 December.

The exact origin of the O Antiphons is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. By the eighth century, they were in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome.

The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: each one highlights a title of the Messiah:

O *Sapientia* (O Wisdom),
O *Adonai* (O Lord),
O *Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse),
O *Clavis David* (O Key of David),
O *Oriens* (O Rising Sun),
O *Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and
O *Emmanuel*; also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah looking forward to the coming of the Messiah.

Monday 17 December

O **Wisdom**, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth.

Tuesday 18 December

O **Adonai** and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.

Adonai: a Hebrew name for God meaning 'Lord'

Wednesday 19 December

O **Root of Jesse**, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay.

Jesse: father of King David from whose stock Jesus was descended

Thursday 20 December

O **Key of David** and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come and lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Friday 21 December

O **Rising Sun**, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Saturday 22 December

O **King whom all the peoples desire**, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you made from clay.

Sunday 23 December

O **Emmanuel**, you are our king and judge, the one whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O come and save us, Lord, our God.

Adapted from <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk>

GIVING TREE 2018

Thank you for all that has been donated so far – some has already been moved north to Bedford to those in need.

Today is the last day for the collection. If you have somehow missed out on contributing or have goods to come in, please see John or another member of the SVP. Nothing will be lost I promise.

Thanks again



CHRISTMAS MASSES 2018 AT SACRED HEART

Monday, 24 December, Christmas Eve

6.00 pm Mass for Children and Families

9.00 pm Mass of Midnight

Tuesday, 25 December, Christmas Day

9.00 am Mass for Children and Families

Preparing the Church for Christmas

Dear parishioners,
Please come along to help clean and decorate the church for Christmas. Come on

Tuesday 18 December at 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Many hands make light work!



Lessons and Carols Service with Nativity Tableau

Today Sunday 16 December

At 3.00 pm

Followed by Refreshments

All Welcome.



We welcome Charlie, son of Jenny and David Alexander, who will be baptised into the Catholic community today.

We ask the parish to pray for him and his family on this special day, and wish him and his family all God's blessings on their journey of faith.



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION
MONDAY 17 DECEMBER
AT 7.30 PM**

Prepare for the season of Christmas 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.

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 at 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

meet in the church every Monday at 7.30 pm. Members provide help, support and friendship to anyone in need. They offer this support through befriending visits. Call Brendan Spillane, 01525 861 949 to find out more about their work.

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 next meet on **Tuesday 8 January**. We meet fortnightly to pray for our children and have had many answers to our prayers. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for details.



The sewing group will meet on **14 January** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will next meet on **2 January**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



Newsletter copy deadline – Thursday midday.

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