

# newsletter



23 December 2018

Fourth 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



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton  
 Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP  
 Contact: 01525 715 109, 07711 953 926, [www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)  
 Parish Priest, **Father John Danford** [sacredheartlb@btinternet.com](mailto:sacredheartlb@btinternet.com), 01525 372 321  
 Parish Deacon, **Deacon Philip Pugh** [deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk), 07711 953 926  
 Pastoral Administrator, **Suzanne Yates** [secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)

Thank you for your contribution to the parish. For 16 December the offertory was £370.80 and standing orders were £623.00. With thanks, the Finance Committee.

## FEAST OF JOHN THE APOSTLE – 27 DECEMBER

St John the Evangelist, who is styled in the Gospel as ‘the beloved disciple’, was a Galilean, son of Zebedee and Salome and brother to St James the Greater, both of whom were fishermen. The two were called by Jesus to be disciples as they were mending their nets by the Sea of Galilee.

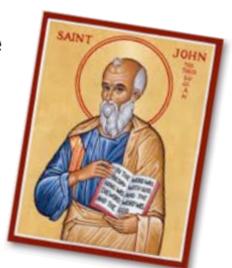
Jesus showed St John particular instances of kindness and affection above all the rest. He was present with Peter and James at the Transfiguration of Christ, and witnessed his agony in the Garden. Jesus confided the care of his holy Mother as he hung dying on the Cross to St John.

St John remained for a long time in Jerusalem, but his later years were spent at Ephesus, where he founded many churches. St John wrote his Gospel about sixty-three years after the Ascension of Christ, three Epistles, and the wonderful and mysterious Book of the Apocalypse or Revelation. He was brought to Rome and according to tradition, was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil by order of Emperor Domitian. Like the three children in the fiery furnace of Babylon, he was miraculously preserved unharmed. He was later exiled to the Island of Patmos, where he wrote the Apocalypse, but afterwards returned to Ephesus.

In his extreme old age he continued to visit the churches of Asia. St Jerome relates that when age and weakness grew upon him so that he was no longer able to preach to the people, he would be carried to the assembly of the faithful by his disciples, with great difficulty. Every time said to his flock only these words: ‘My dear children, love one another.’

St John died in peace at Ephesus about 100 AD, he was about ninety-four years old, according to St Epiphanius.

Adapted from <http://www.catholicculture.org>



| Readers and Eucharistic Ministers |                          |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mass                              | This Sunday, 23 December | Next Sunday, 30 December |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading           | Noelette Hanley          | Siobhan Campbell         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading           | Alison Braniff           | Brendan Spillane         |
| Eucharistic                       | Anne Gadsden             | Maggie Dullaghan         |
| Eucharistic                       | Nicky Paterson           | Helen Wilson             |
| Driver                            | C./J. Gallagher          | Kate Mansford            |

**CHRISTMAS CAR PARKING**  
 The school car park will be open for both Masses on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle Four**

Celebrant: He will feed his flock with the power of the Lord, With the majesty of the name of his God.

Deacon: They will live secure, to the ends of the lands, He himself shall be peace.

**The Fourth Candle on the Wreath is lit.**

**ALL: COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS, COME LIGHT OF THE WORLD, BRING US PEACE.**



Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Mass Times at Sacred Heart**

|           |             |          |  |
|-----------|-------------|----------|--|
| Sunday    | 23 December | 9.00 am  | Donald Rogers, Anniversary, RIP and James Bunker, Anniversary, RIP                   |
| Monday    | 24 December | 6.00 pm  | Mary Keating, Intentions for Christmas and Mary Kate Casey, Intentions for Christmas |
| Monday    | 24 December | 9.00 pm  | Special Intentions   |
| Tuesday   | 25 December | 9.00 am  | Intentions of Jo and John Fletcher<br>Special Intentions                             |
| Wednesday | 26 December |          | NO SERVICE   |
| Friday    | 28 December | 10.00 am | The Intentions of the Quinlan Family   |

**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.

## Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas

| Mass                   | 6.00 pm         | 9.00 pm        | 9.00 am        |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reader | Noelette Hanley | Ros Penn       | Kate Mansford  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader | Adrian Hamilton | Martin Brennan | Dee Brady      |
| Eucharistic Minister   | None Required   | John Flanagan  | Nicky Paterson |
| Eucharistic Minister   | None Required   | Jane Crow      | To Be Advised  |

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 **Monday 7 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 meet again on **2 January**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.



### CHRISTMAS MASSES 2018

#### AT SACRED HEART

**Monday, 24 December, Christmas Eve**

6.00 pm Mass for Children and Families

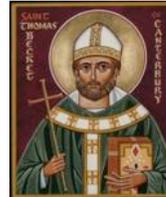
9.00 pm Mass of Midnight

**Tuesday, 25 December, Christmas Day**

9.00 am Mass for Children and Families

### FEAST OF ST THOMAS BECKETT 29 DECEMBER

He was born in London and became a close friend of King Henry II. He was only a deacon when he was appointed chancellor of England. When he was ordained as archbishop of



Canterbury, he underwent an abrupt conversion of life and began to defend the Church's rights against the king. He had to take refuge in a French monastery for six years. When he returned to his diocese, four knights, inspired by careless words from the king, assassinated him in his cathedral on 29 December 1170. He was immediately acknowledged as a martyr and the king later did penance and endowed his shrine.

He is remembered for his courage in defence of the rights of the Church. St Thomas Becket is one of the patrons of Northampton Cathedral.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis

### FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS 28 DECEMBER

This is also called Childermas, or Innocents' Day, a feast day

commemorating the massacre of the children by King Herod in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus. These children were



regarded by the early church as the first martyrs, but it is uncertain when the day was first kept as a saint's day. At first it may have been celebrated with Epiphany, but by the fifth century it was kept as a separate festival. In Rome it was a day of fasting and mourning. In medieval England the children were reminded of the mournfulness of the day by being whipped in bed in the morning, a custom surviving to the seventeenth century. The day is still observed as a feast day, and in Roman Catholic countries as a day of merrymaking for children.

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

### SVP Giving Tree Progress

Once again you have been very generous in your support of the SVP Giving Tree. 964 items have been donated this year with socks leading the way with 205 pairs being given – some warmer feet in Bedford in the coming months. I must also report that I have been given more than the odd tenner to purchase food and other things needed.

Thank you so much. May you be blessed for your wonderful giving.

On behalf of all those at the Prebend Centre, a heartfelt thank you.

**Newsletter copy deadline – Thursday midday.**  
Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates; 01525 840 661;  
[suz\\_yates@btinternet.com](mailto:suz_yates@btinternet.com)

Lucky winners of the Christmas raffle were

- First **Theresa McKay**
- Second **Sylvia Daley**
- Third **John Flanagan**
- Fourth **Catherine Davies**
- Fifth **Patrick Crehan**

We raised £367 for the St Francis suite. Thank you for your support.

### Sacred Heart Flitwick 100 CLUB

The latest draw took place on 9 December and the lucky winners were

- First. **Maria Shaw,**
- Second. **Gerard Watson** and
- Third. **John Colleran.**

### Christmas Bonus Prizes

- **Tom Eastwood**
- **Nicky Paterson**

Thank you so much for all your donations of food this Christmas for the NEED project. We had to have an extra collection due to your generosity. NEED are expecting to distribute 150 food boxes in the Amphill and Flitwick.

