

newsletter



30 December 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph



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

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

Thank you for your contribution to the parish. For 23 December the offertory was £419.00 and standing orders were £623.00. With thanks, the Finance Committee.

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD – 1 JANUARY

We celebrated the liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 1 January, which is the Octave of Christmas. Only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave, which is an eight-day extension of the feast. The honouring of Mary as the Mother of God can be traced back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. By the 7th century, 1 January was observed as a celebration of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the 13th century, the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ had come to replace the feast honouring Mary; however in 1751, after a push in Portugal for an official feast day celebrating Mary's divine maternity, Pope Benedict XIV allowed Portugal's churches to devote a feast to Mary on the first Sunday in May. Eventually, the feast extended to other countries, and in 1914 began to be observed on 11 October. In 1931, Pope Pius XI extended the feast to the entire church, and in 1974, Pope Paul VI removed the feast of the Circumcision of Christ from the liturgical calendar and replaced it with the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, bringing Mary's feast day back to the first day of the year.



The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title *Mother of God* is a western derivation from the Greek *Theotokos*, which means God-bearer. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, 'Be it done to me according to thy word'. Calling Mary *Mother of God* is the highest honour we can give to her. Just as Christmas honours Jesus as the *Prince of Peace*, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honours Mary as the *Queen of Peace*. New Year's Day is also designated as the World Day of Peace, further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

Adapted from <http://holyfamily.org/>

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

Mass	This Sunday, 30 December	Next Sunday, 6 January
1 st Reading	Siobhan Campbell	Catherine Davies
2 nd Reading	Brendan Spillane	Dee Brady
Eucharistic	Maggie Dullaghan	Chris Till
Eucharistic	Helen Wilson	Noreen Weighell
Driver	Kate Mansford	William Doyle

Please note

Mass on Tuesday 1 January will be at 10.30 am

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	30 December	9.00 am	Noreen Hanley, Recently Deceased
Tuesday	1 January	10.30 am	Ethna McShane, RIP and Intentions of Nora Proctor
Wednesday	2 January	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion
Friday	4 January	10.00 am	Service of the Word and Communion

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.

Twelfth Night is a holiday on 5 January that marks the 12th and final night of the Christmas season. Twelfth Night is the eve before the twelfth day of Christmas, or the Epiphany celebration, which commemorates the adoration of the Magi before the infant Jesus.



In Tudor England, Twelfth Night marked the end of a winter festival that started on All Hallow's Eve, which we now celebrate as Halloween. A King, or Lord of Misrule would be appointed to run the Christmas festivities, and Twelfth Night was the end of his period of rule. The theme was that the normal order of things was reversed. This Lord of Misrule tradition can be traced to pre-Christian European festivals such as the Celtic festival of Samhain and the Ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia.

After Twelfth Night the carnival season starts, which lasts through Mardi Gras. In some places such as New Orleans, Louisiana, the night of 6 January with the first carnival celebrations is called Twelfth Night.

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

For Your Information

Anglian Water will be installing a new water main along Hornes End Road, Flitwick. Work will start on 2 January and go until 8 February.



During this time they plan to maintain access to driveways where possible.

During this time, the residents who are affected will be able to use the church car park. They will be asked to park along the fence where possible and display an Anglian water sticker.

They are not to use it on Sundays from 7.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Please be patient and if there is a problem, please contact Suzanne Yates and she will try to sort it out.

Congratulations and best wishes to William and Rosemary Doyle who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 20 December.



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

**FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS
 3 JANUARY**

In a world of fiercely guarded corporate names and logos, it should be easy to understand this feast. The letters IHS are an abbreviation of *Iesous*, the Greek name for Jesus.



The Feast of the Holy Name (traditionally celebrated as the Feast of the Circumcision) is a major feast of the Church. It reflects the significance of the Holy Name, Jesus. The name Jesus is from the Hebrew Joshua or Yehoshuah meaning 'Yahweh is salvation' or 'Yahweh will save'.

Although St Paul might claim credit for promoting devotion to the Holy Name because Paul wrote in Philippians that God the Father gave Christ Jesus 'that name that is above every name' (see 2:9), this devotion became popular because of twelfth-century Cistercian monks and nuns but especially through the preaching of St Bernardino of Siena, a fifteenth-century Franciscan.

Bernardino used devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as a way of overcoming bitter and often bloody class struggles and family rivalries or vendettas in Italian city states. The devotion grew, partly because of Franciscan and Dominican preachers. It spread even more widely after the Jesuits began promoting it, in the sixteenth century.

In 1530, Pope Clement V approved an Office of the Holy Name for the Franciscans. In 1721, Pope Innocent XIII extended this feast to the entire Church.

This feast invites us to a continual remembrance and veneration of the Holy Name, in order that God might plant in us, and in every heart, the love of him who is the Saviour of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

We welcome Evie, daughter of Francesca and Ashley Crowther, who will be baptised into the Catholic community on Saturday 5 January.



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

Save the Date
 Our Quiet Day will be held on Saturday 9 February 11.30 am to 3.30 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 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 **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.

