

newsletter



3 February 2019

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 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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Pastoral Administrator, **Suzanne Yates** secretary@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Thank you for your contribution to the parish. For 6 January it was £398.50 and standing orders were £623.00. With thanks, the finance committee.

FEAST OF ST AGATHA – 5 FEBRUARY

We have little reliable information about this martyr who has been honoured since ancient times, and whose name is included in the canon of the Mass. Young, beautiful and rich, Agatha lived a life consecrated to God. When Decius announced the edicts against Christians, the magistrate Quinctianus tried to profit by Agatha's sanctity; he planned to blackmail her into sex in exchange for not charging her. Handed over to a brothel, she refused to accept customers. After rejecting Quinctianus's advances, she was beaten, imprisoned, tortured, her breasts were crushed and cut off. She told the judge, 'Cruel man, have you forgotten your mother and the breast that nourished you, that you dare to mutilate me this way?' One version has it that Saint Peter healed her. She was then imprisoned again, then rolled on live coals; when she was near death, an earthquake struck. In the destruction that followed, a friend of the magistrate was crushed, and the magistrate fled. Agatha thanked God for an end to her pain, and died.

Legend says that carrying her veil, taken from her tomb in Catania, in procession has averted eruptions of Mount Etna. Her intercession is reported to have saved Malta from Turkish invasion in 1551.

Adapted from <http://catholicsaints.info>



Marking Fridays as a Sign of our Catholic Identity

Every Friday is set aside by the Church as a special day of penance, since it recalls Good Friday. Marking this day in a special way enables us to reflect that each Sunday is a memorial of Easter, when, through joining together for Mass, we celebrate Jesus' death and Resurrection.



At one time there was a very direct link between Catholic practice and the meaning of Friday. For this reason the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, at their regular meeting in May 2011, urged all Catholics 'to re-establish the practice of Friday penance in the lives of the faithful as a clear and distinctive mark of their own Catholic identity'.

In the statement to accompany their announcement, they described how 'by the practice of penance every Catholic identifies with Christ in his death on the cross'. In Lent, we learn to do this in three ways: prayer, in fasting and in giving of our time and our wealth to those in need and in what is called 'almsgiving'.

We have been urged to treat Friday as a special day of penance. The bishops have decided to re-establish the practice that this should be fulfilled by abstaining from meat on this one day of the week. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet, should abstain from some other food which they eat regularly, or to observe some other form of penance or self-denial.

This month as we care for our common home we are suggesting that we have one more meat-free day as well as Friday.

Adapted from <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/>

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

Mass	This Sunday, 3 February	Next Sunday, 10 February
1 st Reading	Suzanne Yates	Ann Leatherland
2 nd Reading	Kate Mansford	Siobhan Campbell
Eucharistic	Maggie Dullaghan	Don Perrett
Eucharistic	Adrian Hamilton	Ros Penn
Driver	David Toland	C.J.J. Gallagher

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	3 February	9.00 am	Jack Henebry, RIP and Intentions of Leo Murphy on his 90 th birthday
Tuesday	5 February	9.30 am	Intentions of Mary Delany who is ill and Special Intentions for Megan
Wednesday	6 February	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion
Friday	8 February	10.00 am	Eleanor Murphy, RIP and Alan Brown, Recently Deceased, RIP

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY RACIAL JUSTICE

O God, we pray for all those in our world who are suffering from injustice, who are discriminated against because of their race, colour or religion. We pray for a more just society where the dignity of every individual is recognised and valued. Amen.

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME – FEBRUARY

Pope Francis suggests that for February we have one less meat meal each week.



PREPARATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The starting date for First Holy Communion preparation is 10 March, after the 9.00 am Mass.



Please make sure you have contacted

sacraments@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk before this date, if you wish your child to receive communion for the first time this year.

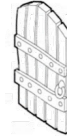
To be eligible to start these classes, your child must have been baptised and received the sacrament of reconciliation.

ANNUAL QUIET DAY

Saturday 9 February
11.00 am till 3.00 pm

What is a Quiet Day?

Our quiet day is an opportunity to have a time away from the bustle of everyday life without having to travel too far. It provides an opportunity for us to regain some balance between doing and being. In the familiar setting of our church, you can make this personal time of an hour or more, to recharge your spiritual batteries in the depth of the winter.



A number of 'bases' around the church will guide you through reflections on six of Jesus' description of himself

Jesus said I am:

- ... the Bread
- ... the Light
- ... the Gate
- ... the Shepherd,
- ... the Way, the Truth and the Life
- ... the Vine



The bases are arranged around the church. You are encouraged to visit the bases in the order that will be set out on the day.

It will be a quiet and reflective time in the church, and we hope you enjoy the spaces as a pilgrim during your visit.

Pre CONFIRMATION

PRE-CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Pre-Confirmation classes will start on the 17 March after the 9.00 am Mass.

If your child has taken their First Holy Communion and you wish them to have a better understanding of the church and its teachings, please contact sacraments@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk to register your child.

There will be eight sessions running every week after Mass, in term time.

We welcome Ceira, daughter of Louisa and Jason Philbin, who was baptised into the Catholic community on Saturday 2 February.



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.

SUNDAY TEAS AND COFFEES

The tea and coffee clientele have again been very generous and have enabled us to send a £100.00 donation to Mary's Meals, 'Double the Love' appeal, which will be doubled by the UK government up to £2 million until 1 March, 2019.



It costs £13.90 to feed one child for a whole school year, so for every £13.90 raised by the Sunday teas, two children will be fed!

We have also sent £100 to the Barnardo's Children charity.

Very many thanks to you all and our faithful band of helpers.

RETIRING COLLECTION – MASS MEDIA

There will be a retiring collection next Sunday **10 February**. This collection is a contribution to the Church's media evangelisation campaign through television, radio, the Internet and special projects in the Catholic press. This is an annual collection taken up in the diocese. Gift Aid envelopes are available. Please be as generous as you can.



ARE YOU A EU CITIZEN LIVING IN THE UK?

The Catholic Bishop's Conference has asked us to let you know that the UK has issued a Government Settlement Scheme for EU citizens.

To find if you need to avail of this scheme go to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit>

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

INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be at 8.40 am on Sundays and at 9.45 am on Fridays.

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 HOUSEBOUND?

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 4 February**. 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 **11 February** 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 **6 February**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

