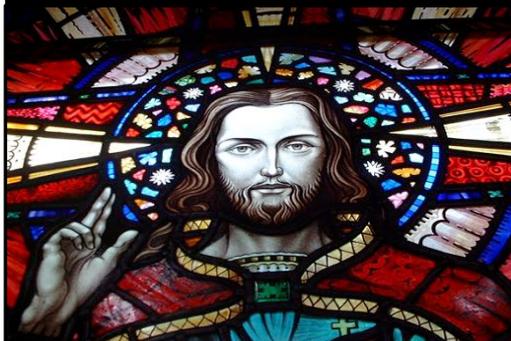




13 January 2019

The Baptism of the Lord



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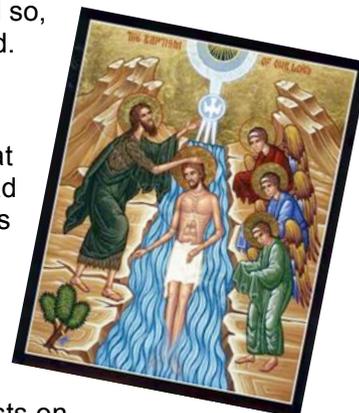
Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton
 Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP
 Contact: 01525 715 109, 07711 953 926, www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk
 Parish Priest, **Father John Danford** sacredheartlb@btinternet.com, 01525 372 321
 Parish Deacon, **Deacon Philip Pugh** deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk,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

Thank you for your contribution to the parish. For 6 January £357.10 and standing orders were £623.00. With thanks, the Finance Committee.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The preaching of John the Baptist led to the suggestion that John himself was the Christ. John, on hearing the rumour, pointed out the Christ was yet to come. He was soon to arrive and when he did so, he would come with fire and the Holy Spirit, and through him all people would be judged. As far as John was concerned, Jesus was the anointed one of God (in Greek, Christ; in Hebrew, Messiah) for whom he was preparing the way.

Luke's account of the baptism of Jesus is somewhat strange in that it does not state that Jesus was baptised by John. In the previous chapter in the Gospel, it says that John had been imprisoned by Herod Antipas for criticising his relationship with Herodias, who was married to his half-brother, Philip. Luke emphasises the part played by the Holy Spirit rather than the baptism itself. At the moment of the baptism, however, Luke describes how the voice of God spoke to Jesus about the close relationship between them: 'You are my son, the Beloved, my favour rests on you', is a combination of two texts from the Old Testament. 'You are my son, the Beloved' is a quotation based on Psalm 2, a Messianic Psalm that talks of the Messiah coming to reign over Israel. '... My favour rests on you' is a quotation from the Suffering Servant Songs of Isaiah and by implication shows that the Messiah will be one who will suffer. So Jesus is confirmed at one and the same time as both a Messianic figure and a figure who will experience suffering, and he will do this because he is God's son.



Taken from *The Word of God, Year C Luke's Gospel* by Robin Cooper

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers		
Mass	This Sunday, 13 January	Next Sunday, 20 January
1 st Reading	Martin Brennan	Michael Burgess
2 nd Reading	Una McAlinden	Emma Burgess
Eucharistic	Myriam Rincon	Helen Burgess
Eucharistic	Carlos Rincon	Pat King
Driver	Louis Chadwick	William Doyle

Grace Before Meals for this week
 Thank you, Father. You care for us with lots of good food. May we use just enough and give plenty to others. Amen.

Mass Times at Sacred Heart

Sunday	13 January	9.00 am	In Thanksgiving by Ros Penn, for her family, friends and parishioners
Tuesday	15 January	9.30 am	Intentions of Peggy Doran and Intentions of Phil Kerrigan who is ill
Wednesday	16 January	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion
Friday	18 January	10.00 am	Intentions of Liam Carpenter on the occasion of his ordination to the diaconate

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR JANUARY PEACE ON EARTH

O Almighty God, turn, we pray, the hearts of all peoples and their rulers, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, peace may be established among all nations on the foundation of justice, righteousness and truth, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME – JANUARY

Pope Francis suggests that for January we say grace before meals so we can begin to connect ourselves to God's creation.



BOOK CLUB NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 4 April 2019 at 7.30 pm in the home Ros Penn. Tea/coffee and snacks will be served.

(Please ask Suzanne Yates, Pastoral Administrator for the address)

New members are made very welcome and we will chat about the book,

The Things He Carried
by Stephen Cottrell

The narrative of Holy Week is powerful and painful, and because we know how the story ends, it is easy to gloss over the difficult details, and stay in the comfort zone of our understanding. Stephen Cottrell brings home, vividly and poignantly, the physical reality of the passion story. This is a book to stimulate thought, provoke discussion and create space for contemplation.



Feast of St Antony, Abbot (251-356) 17 January

St Antony is the originator of the monastic life. Born in Egypt when his parents died, he listened to the words of the Gospel and gave all his belongings to the poor. He went into the wilderness to begin a life of penitence, living in poverty, praying, meditating, and supporting himself by manual work. He suffered many temptations, physical and spiritual, but he overcame them. Disciples gathered round him, attracted by his wisdom, moderation, and holiness. He gave support to the victims of the persecutions of Diocletian, and helping St Athanasius in his fight against the Arians. He lived to be over a hundred years old, and died in AD 356.



The Gospels are full of wise sayings of Jesus that seem to be ignored, and one of the most poignant of these was in his meeting with that young man who asked over and over again, insistently, 'What must I do to have eternal life?'. When, in the end, Jesus told him that if he wanted to be perfect he would have to sell all that he had and give the money to the poor, the young man went away sorrowing, because he was very rich. What could be more of a waste than that? You tell someone what to do, and he/she is afraid to do it. And yet 250 years later St Antony hears the story, and does give away all that he has, and becomes the founder of monasticism. And then again, over 1,000 years later, St Francis of Assisi hears the story and gives away his possessions (and some of his father's) and revolutionises Christianity again.

Not all the words that we speak are forgotten, even though we cannot see their effects ourselves. Let us pray that those unknown effects may always be good ones.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis Publishing

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Quiet Day will be held on Saturday 9 February, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm. The topic is 'Jesus said "I am..."'

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

The WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

is traditionally observed from 18 to 25 January. The theme is 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ...' (Deut. 16:18-20)

Our prayers for Christian unity are offered in a world where corruption, greed and injustice bring about inequality and division.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019 resources have been prepared by Christians from Indonesia, the largest country in South East Asia, made up of more than 17,000 islands, 1,340 different ethnic groups and over 740 local languages, united by one national language Bahasa Indonesia. With some 86% of its 260 million people Muslim, it has the largest Islamic population of any country. About 10% of Indonesians are Christian.

Taken from <https://ctbi.org.uk>



RETIRING COLLECTION FOR JUST ONE HOUSE THIS SUNDAY 13 JANUARY

This Sunday, we have a retiring collection to add to the funds we have raised for Just One House. Everyone has been very generous and we have another opportunity next Sunday to be generous again. Please give as you can.



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.



The next meeting of Mothers' Prayers will be at the home of Ros Penn at 33, Maple Close in Pulloxhill on Monday, **21 January** at 7.30pm. 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 **16 January**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

