

newsletter



21 July 2019

16th 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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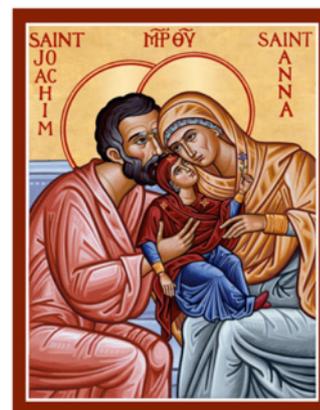
Thank you for your contribution to the parish. For 14 July it was £411 and standing orders were £750.00. The second collection was \$210.90
 With thanks.

FEAST OF SAINT ANNA AND SAINT JOACHIM – 26 JULY

An ancient tradition already known in the second century gives these names to the parents of the Virgin Mary. The cult of St Anna became popular in the sixth century in the East, and in the tenth century in the West, where she is the patron saint of Brittany. Joachim was added a long time later – too often the fate of fathers.

Although the information about Mary's parents is found in early apocryphal writing that gives many miraculous and highly-coloured stories about the early life of the Virgin Mary, there is no reason to suppose that such a straightforward fact as her parents' names should be wrong, since there is nothing to be gained from falsifying it. It does not occur in the Gospels simply because the most reliable evangelists (the only ones whom we have allowed into the Bible) felt they had more important things to talk about.

But what, after all, could be more important than the parents who brought up the Virgin Mary (to be the woman she was)? At the moment of consenting to the Incarnation, she took the most important decision ever taken by any human being, and the fact that she took it is to a great extent the work of her parents. The Holy Spirit gave her the strength to take the decision, but her parents' training gave her the wisdom to choose.



Those of us who have children must seek to bring them up to the best of our ability, to meet challenges that like Anna and Joachim, we have no way of even imagining.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app. by Universalis Publishing

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers		
Mass	This Sunday, 21 July	Next Sunday, 28 July
1 st Reading	Dee Brady	Siobhan Campbell
2 nd Reading	Una McAlinden	Catherine Davies
Eucharistic	Clare Bevan	Jane Crow
Eucharistic	Don Perrett	Ros Penn
Driver	C./J. Gallagher	David Toland

NOTICE
 There will be no 5.15 pm Mass at Shefford on 28 July, and 4 and 11 August.

FOODBANK
 The Foodbank needs tins of custard, rice pudding and fruit and long life ready meals are always welcome. Thank you all for your continued generosity to this important charity.

Mass Times at Sacred Heart			
Sunday	21 July	9.00 am	Intentions of Msgr Stephen Downes and Canon Denis McSweeney, Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday	23 July	9.30 am	John Donnelly, Recently Deceased, RIP
Wednesday	24 July	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion
Friday	26 July	10.00 am	Michael Cahill, RIP John Cahill, RIP

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR JULY – SEAFARERS
 Eternal Lord God, ruler of the earth and sky, be pleased to receive into your protection all who go down to the sea in ships to work or to seek refuge. Preserve them in body and soul; prosper their labours with good success; in time of danger be their help and defence and bring them safely into port; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME – JULY

Pope Francis suggests that for July we reduce our water use and our water wastage



THE PARISH RETREAT SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 9.30 AM TO 3.30 PM AT BUCKDEN TOWERS

Reserve the date in your diary and look out for the registration leaflets. Space on the retreat is limited. Donation for the day of about £10 – pay on the day – bring a shared lunch.



FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE – 22 JULY

Mary of Magdala was healed of 'seven devils' by Jesus, ministered to him in Galilee and was present at his crucifixion. She was in the group of women who were the first to discover the empty tomb, and it was to her that the risen Jesus first appeared.



Western tradition is that Mary Magdalene is also 'the woman who was a sinner' and the sister of Martha and Lazarus of Bethany. There is no evidence, and the tradition is tenuous enough for even such authorities as St Ambrose to hold, with the East, that they are three different people. It seems, therefore, that although the Western tradition is to be respected and is a real inspiration, it may not necessarily be historical. This kind of ambiguity is inevitable in a religion such as Christianity, which is founded on definite historical events, but we need not worry about it too much; if it had been harmful to us to celebrate the tradition of heroic penitence, the Holy Spirit would not have allowed it.

Even without the extra tradition, Mary Magdalene is an important character in the story of the Resurrection, chosen by Christ as one of the first witnesses of the event that changed the world.

Adapted from Catholic Calendar app by Universalis

Sacred Heart Flitwick 100 CLUB

The latest draw took place on 14 July and the lucky winners were 1st – Mary Aylward, 2nd – Christina Swannell, 3rd – Gerald Watson.

Newsletter copy deadline – Thursday midday.

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

FEAST OF ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN – 23 JULY

St Bridget is best known as the author of *The Propheties and Revelation of St Bridget* and as the founder of the order of the Most Holy Saviour. She was born at Finsta in Sweden in 1303. From childhood the Lord granted her special graces, visions and an



extraordinary understanding of divine realities. At a very early age she had a vision of the crucified Jesus in all the tragedy of his Passion, and she felt enkindled in her soul a profound devotion to the Saviour. This devotion would later become a precious heritage of the Bridgettine Order, as expressed in its motto *amor meus crucifixus est*. Bridget married at age thirteen out of obedience to her parents. She was the mother of eight children whom she raised in the Christian faith. She travelled as a pilgrim to many shrines together with her husband, Ulf, who upon returning from a visit to Santiago de Compostela, entered the Cistercians of Alvastra in Sweden where he lived for the two years before his death. Remaining at Alvastra following her husband's death, Bridget joined the Franciscan Third Order. While remaining in the world, she devoted herself to a more ascetic life through the practice of penance, a life of poverty and zealous work in helping the poor, the needy and the infirm.

Assiduously devoted to prayer, she had numerous visions of the Saviour who asked her to establish a new monastic order, and to travel to Rome in order to await the return of the Pope from Avignon. For the fulfilment of this latter intention she offered constant prayers, practised mortifications and made urgent appeals to the Pope to return to his see in Rome.

Bridget moved to Rome in the company of a small group of priests and friends in 1349. She made many pilgrimages the last was to the Holy Land, after she had seen the return of the Pope to Rome. She died on 23 July 1373, was canonised on 7 October 1391, and on 1 October 1999, Pope John Paul II proclaimed St Bridget as Patron of Europe.

Adapted from <http://www.maryvale.ac.uk>

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 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 22 July**

at 7.30 pm at 80 George Street, Maulden. You are very welcome to join us to pray for your family Intentions, in full confidentiality. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186. We meet fortnightly.



The sewing group will meet on **22 July** 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 **7 August**. Please contact

Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

