

newsletter



12 January 2020

Feast of 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



 Follow us on Facebook

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 5 January it was £266 and standing orders were £750.00. With thanks, Finance Committee

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – 12 JANUARY

Today's Gospel is taken from Matthew 3: 13-17

One of the most difficult questions concerning the baptism of Jesus is: Why did he need to be baptised for the forgiveness of sins at all if he was, as is believed by Christians, sinless?

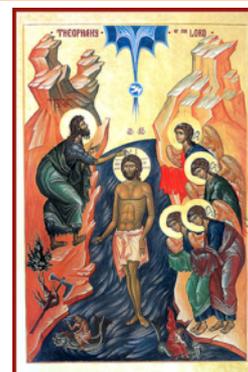
There have been many attempts to answer this question such as the completely unacceptable one that Jesus was playacting in an attempt to identify himself with the role of John the Baptist in preparing the way for the Messiah.

Matthew is aware of the difference and when John protests that he should not be baptising Jesus, has Jesus saying that matters can be left as they are in order to 'do all that righteousness demands'. What this means is that Jesus, by being baptised, was showing great humility in undergoing the act of baptism without any need to do so.

Perhaps the real reason lies in the words spoken by the voice from heaven. In Mark and Luke the words are given personally to Jesus. Here they form a public announcement: 'This is my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on him'.

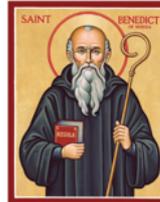
The words are based on the Servant Song of Isaiah found in the first reading of the day.

There is a remarkable similarity between the experience forecast for the Suffering Servant and that of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is the moment God confirms Jesus as Messiah. By our own baptism we are united with Jesus in his role as Messiah. We are called to share in his work of offering salvation to all people.



Adapted from *The Word of God – Year A*, by Robin Cooper

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers		
Mass	This Sunday, 12 January	Next Sunday, 19 January
1 st Reading	Catherine Davies	Dee Brady
2 nd Reading	Brendan Spillane	Siobhan Campbell
Eucharistic	John Flanagan	Ros Penn
Eucharistic	Hilary Brennan	Adrian Hamilton
Driver	C./J. Gallagher	David Toland



THE WISDOM OF ST BENEDICT
 EXPLORING THE HALLMARKS OF BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY
 ANNUAL QUIET DAY
 18 JANUARY
 10.00 AM TILL 3.00 PM

For more information on the day speak to Ros Penn, Bernice Banks, Myriam Rincon or Deacon Philip

Mass Times at Sacred Heart			
Sunday	12 January	9.00 am	Bridie McNerney, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday	14 January	9.30 am	Charles Skerm, Recently Deceased, RIP
Wednesday	15 January	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion
Friday	17 January	10.00 am	Margaret Joyce, Recently Deceased, RIP and Matthew Keenlside, Anniversary RIP

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.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – JANUARY

You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1:8* We are shown what it means to live in relation to God and each other through a relationship with Christ.



THE BIG PICTURE

**YOU THE BIBLE
AND GOD'S
BIG PLAN**
AN INSPIRATIONAL
BIBLE COURSE

Starts Tuesday 14 January at 10.15 am and 7.45 pm

The Bible is 'God's love letter to his people' and we are called this year to deepen our love and understanding under the theme of 'The God who Speaks'. This is because God is speaking directly to us through the words of Scripture.

CaFE, in partnership with Bible Society, have worked hard to produce a very user-friendly and top-quality course for you. It is simple yet very profound, engaging and informative.

We will be using this programme as the centre piece of our parish programme for the year of the Word.

Join us in the journey through the story of our salvation in the Big Picture.

May God shine his light brightly upon you as you embark upon this new journey of faith.

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



St Antony is the originator of the monastic life. He was 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 out into the wilderness to begin a life of penitence, living in absolute poverty, praying, meditating, and supporting himself by manual work. 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.

The Gospels are full of 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 he has to do, and he 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.

Taken From *Universalis Calendar App*

Pray and Play at Sacred Heart



Our first session for 2020 will be today
12 January – Baptism

9 February – Ash Wednesday

8 March – Lent and Easter

17 May – Prayer Stations

14 June – Summer Holidays
starting at 2.00 pm for one hour.

All children up to Year 6 are welcome.

**CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT**

THE WHITE FLOWER APPEAL TODAY, 12 JANUARY 2020

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its appeal this weekend.

SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. The society's work covers a wide spectrum of pro-life, pro-family issues. It seeks to protect unborn children from abortion and defends the disabled, elderly and incapacitated from euthanasia and assisted suicide. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools and offers pro-life support for teachers, parents and medical professionals. Please give generously to this worthy cause.



We welcome Jack son of Francesca and Oliver Burt, who will be baptised into the Catholic community today, 12 January.

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



BOOK CLUB

DATE'S OF NEXT MEETINGS ARE:

Thursday 16 January at 7.00 pm to watch the film of *The Way* followed by a meeting on 5 March at 7.30 pm to discuss the book in the home of Ros Penn.



The next book that we have for you to read in preparation for Lent is: *The Long Road to Heaven* by Tim Heaton.

Week Of Prayer for Christian Unity
18 to 25 January
Opening Service
at St Peter and St Paul Flitwick
on next Sunday 19 January at 6.30 pm
All Welcome

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

INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be at 8.30 am on Sundays and at 9.30 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 20**

January 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 **13 January** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. Contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will meet again on **15 January**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

