



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.

PARISH CATECHESIS FROM FR. JERRY

Theme: *Imagine A Sower going out to sow...*

Today's Gospel reading is about the invitation of Jesus to the Crowd. Jesus' invitation to enter his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching. Through his parables, he invites people to the feast of the kingdom, but he also asks for a radical choice before one can gain the kingdom, one must give everything. The parables are like mirrors for man. Jesus and the presence of the Kingdom in this world are secretly in the parables. One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, in order to 'know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven' (CCC#546).

Interestingly, the thirteenth chapter of Matthew's Gospel consists of seven parables. Jesus speaks in parables to attract his hearers' attention and provoke them to actively think about life issues. The parables on the Kingdom of God and the various human responses to this kingdom and its message. In the Parable of the Sower, there is emphasis on the various conditions of soil and its effects on the seed. The kinds of soil depict different responses to Jesus' words. For instance, the resistant response is the seed that falls along the path. Since the ground is hard, the seed cannot penetrate the surface and is soon devoured by the birds. Then the shallow response from the crowd is the seed that falls on patches of rock. The seeds sprout quickly but since there is no deeper soil for the plant to sink its roots, it withers under the heat of the Sun. this describes nominal disciples. The distracted response from the crowd is the seed that falls among thorns. Here, the soil is sufficiently deep, but another problem arises; it is already occupied by weeds powerful enough to choke the new feeble plant. The thorns illustrate the power of money and earthly possessions to prevent undivided loyalty to Christ. The attentive response from the crowd is the seed that falls on good, unencumbered soil. Amidst the loss, there is an abundant harvest; despite all obstacles, the message of the kingdom achieves its purpose. The good soil alone shows what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus, the way one lives one's life shows how one has really understood and received the message of the kingdom. The parable of the Sower and the Seed reminds Christians about the methods of meditation and prayer that resemble the kinds of soil in the parable of the Sower. Despite the present challenges of life what is your best response to God's word? May the spoken Word of God find a good place in your heart.

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.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday 15 July	5.00 pm	Bridget Henebry, RIP
Sunday 16 July	9.00 am	In Thanksgiving
Sunday 16 July	11.00 am	Peter Dike Udensi, RIP
Tuesday 18 July	11.00 am	Funeral Service for Michael John Daly
Tuesday 18 July	7.00 pm	Private Intentions
Wednesday 19 July	9.30 am	Alan Ede, Recently Deceased, RIP
Thursday 20 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Friday 21 July	10.00 am	Canon Denis, Anniversary, RIP



PRIEST IN CHARGE

Father Jerry Manomey
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SECRETARY

Aggie Keeble
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WEBSITE

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Follow us on Facebook.

SAFEGUARDING

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HOSPITAL CONTACTS

Bedford - Deacon Tony Quinlan 01234 950 453
tonyquinlan15@gmail.com
Luton - Fr. Liam Castle
frliam.castle@northamptondioces.org

PRAYER LINE

Please ring 01525 643 186.

SVP

Members provide help to anyone in need. Tel. 01525 873 830

CONFESSIONS

Before Mass on Friday and Saturday or on request.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wednesday afternoon
Please contact Aggie Keeble.

MASS INTENTIONS

For Mass Intentions, call or email Aggie who will arrange for a Mass to be said. There are special envelopes in the foyer that you can fill in and leave in the sacristy.

DIARY DATES

- **PARISH DAY**

Parish Day will take place on Sunday **10 September** at **10.00 am** followed by refreshments. More information to follow. Please save the date for the diary.

- **PARISH RETREAT**

Parish retreat will take place on **Saturday 30 September at Buckden Towers**. More information to follow.

- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024**

If you have a child who will be in Year 3 or above this September and you would like them to prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, please email **Kath Greenwood** catechist.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org to register your interest and to be kept up-to date with details about the application process.

- **CONFIRMATION 2024**

If you have a child who is in Year 8 or above whom you would like to register for confirmation, please contact **Kath Greenwood** at catechist.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org. More details are in the letter on the noticeboard.

OTHER NOTICES

- **FUNERAL OF MICHAEL JOHN DALY**

We are sad to announce the passing of our parishioner, Michael John Daly. The funeral service will take place on Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 11.00 am at Sacred Heart Flitwick. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Please remember Michael John Daly in your prayers. All our sympathy goes to his family.

- **CONGRATULATIONS TO CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

On 16 July at 11.00 am Mass Fr Jerry will hand in the certificates to the children who received First Holy Communion on 1 July. Please keep the children in your prayers.

- **AGGIE KEEBLE AWAY**

I will be away from **22 July to 7 August**. For Mass Intentions please contact Suzanne Yates on smyates47@gmail.com.

- **100 CLUB WINNERS FOR JULY**

1st John Fletcher 2nd Pauline Nicholson 3rd Clare Bevan
Congratulations!

- **ASSEMBLY LIVE — STREAM AND ASSEMBLY WEBINARS**

Here are the links to the Diocesan Assembly live stream <https://northamptondiocese.org/assembly/> and assembly webinars <https://northamptondiocese.org/diocese-focus-synod/>. Both links are available on our church website at sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

- **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WITH FR. JERRY**

Spiritual Direction takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.00 to 7.00 pm. Please contact Fr. Jerry or Aggie to book it.

- **PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM**

On 5 August there is a pilgrimage to Walsingham with various 'pick up' points around our diocese. Please see the poster on the noticeboard.

- **SUMMER CAMP**

KYT invites you to Summer Camp in Alton Castle in Staffordshire from **13 to 17 August**. It is aimed at everyone **aged 12-18**. To book please visit kenelmyyouthtrust.org.uk/summer-camp or collect a leaflet from the porch for more detail.

- **THE THRAPSTON MISSION**

Mission training day will take place on Saturday 16 September at St Paul the Apostle Church in Thrapston. If you are interested in being part of Mission Team for Northampton please sign up at <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/renew-thrapston-mission-team/>



First Holy Communion
1 July 2023

MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly

The first collection was £290.10

The second collection for Stella Maris was £187.23

Thank you very much for your generosity

Finance Committee