



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: Let them both grow till the harvest

In the Gospel reading, Jesus continues to teach the crowd through parables. The parables are like mirrors for humanity (CCC#546). The parable of the Weeds illustrates God's forbearing patience towards humanity and evil in the world. Someone may ask, if God the Father almighty, creator of the ordered and good world, cares for all his creatures, why does evil exist? (CCC#309). In the Gospel reading, we are confronted with the attitude of impatience by the servants to destroy the weeds. The master on the other hand calls for patience. This is the core of the parable, the master advocates for patience and tolerance until the final day of harvest. It must be noted that the ears of wheat and the weeds look so similar that clearing the weeds will undoubtedly lead to the destruction of the wheat. A time will come when the difference between the wheat and the weeds will be clear; that is, harvest time.

Jesus' invitation to enter his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching (CCC#546). Everyone is called to enter the kingdom. First announced to the children of Israel, this messianic kingdom is intended to accept men of all nations (CCC#543). The Kingdom of God is a gathering of saints and sinners on earth, while we await the final sorting by God's angels. Like the wheat and the weeds, it is difficult to clearly point out who is good or bad. The so-called good person will have traces of evil in their personal life. There are also instances of good conduct in one who is supposedly evil. God is patient with us and gives us time while on this earth to bear fruit. Patience, forbearance, and tolerance are necessary virtues for the spiritual journey. Nevertheless, the weeds must be controlled lest they prevent the wheat from bearing good fruits.

In a fast-changing and sometimes evil world, we encounter physical evil that comes alongside with physical good. In God's plan this process of becoming involves the appearance of certain beings and the disappearance of others, the existence of the more perfect alongside the less perfect, both constructive and destructive forces of nature (CCC#310). May the patience and the enduring love of God deliver us from evil.

THE THIRD WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

This weekend, **23 July 2023** is the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The Theme for this year's celebration is 'His mercy is from age to age' (Lk 1:50). Please see the letter attached.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday 22 July	5.00 pm	In Thanksgiving on 60th Wedding Anniversary of Pat and Viv Abraham
Sunday 23 July	9.00 am	Intentions of the Aylward Family
Sunday 23 July	11.00 am	David McConnachie Who Is Ill
Tuesday 25 July	9.30 am	Feast of St James, Intentions of Gentile and Derek Rathbone
Wednesday 26 July	9.30 am	John Joseph McGuigan, RIP
Thursday 27 July	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Friday 28 July	10.00 am	Kathleen Doogan, RIP



PRIEST IN CHARGE

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SECRETARY

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WEBSITE

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Follow us on Facebook.

SAFEGUARDING

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HOSPITAL CONTACTS

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Luton - Fr. Liam Castle
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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 — TASTING FROM THE CARMELITE SPRING**

Parish retreat led by Deacon Philip will take place on **Saturday 30 September at Buckden Towers**. It will start at 9.30 am and finish at 3.00 pm. Tickets cost £20 (including book). The leaflets explaining how to enrol will be distributed soon.

- **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

- **ASSEMBLY WEBINARS**

Many thanks to all who attended the Diocesan Assembly, Pilgrims of Hope, on Saturday. The livestream of the day can be found here: <https://youtu.be/xb0y7G3lTeM> and a video of some of the working party findings can be found here. <https://youtu.be/ajn8lG1kpg8>. You can find all the reports and webinar recordings here, <https://northamptondiocese.org/diocese-focus-synod/> and join the conversation via our portal. In his final address, Bishop David said: that an action plan will be finalised over the summer to address the main concerns of the listening, every area of diocesan life will be encouraged and supported as we look to meet the changing needs of our Church and the world and that there will be a new Diocesan Pastoral Council to take forward the agenda of the Assembly

- **AGGIE KEEBLE AWAY**

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

- **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.

- **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/>

- **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

There will be no children's liturgy in August. The last children's liturgy will take place on Sunday 30 July.

- **CALLED AND EQUIPPED - GROW IN FAITH PROGRAMME**

To find out more please go to : <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/called/> or join our introductory webinar on 2nd August: https://called_and_equipped_webinar_2023.eventbrite.co.uk.

FEAST OF ST JAMES 25 JULY

He was the brother of St John and like him a fisherman. He was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration and one of those who slept through most of the Agony in the Garden. He was the first of the Apostles to be martyred, being beheaded by King Herod Agrippa I to please the Jewish opponents of Christianity. He was buried in Jerusalem and nothing more is known about him until the ninth century.

At this time we learn of a tradition that the relics of St James were brought to Spain some time after his martyrdom, and his shrine at Compostela in Galicia grew in importance until it became the greatest pilgrimage centre in western Europe. In every country there are churches of St James and known, well-trodden pilgrim routes. In Paris, the Tour St Jacques marks the start of the route and the Rue St Jacques points straight towards Compostela. In England, pilgrim routes lead from all parts of the country to the major ports that were used on the pilgrimage. The scallop-shell, the emblem of St James, has become the emblem of pilgrims generally.

In 1987 the pilgrimage routes to Compostela were certified by the Council of Europe as historical cultural routes of international importance.

Adapted from the Universalis App



MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly

The collection was £259.20

Thank you very much for your generosity

Finance Committee