



**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:** *He sells everything he owes and buys the field.*

The Gospel reading continues with Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God through parables. His teaching progresses from mission to growth of the kingdom. Previously, we reflected on the parable of the Sower that encourages agents of evangelisation not to worry if three out of every four seeds come to nothing. Also, the parable of the Wheat and the weeds reminds us of the growth of evil alongside the kingdom of God, until they are separated at the final harvest.

This weekend's parable is about the pearl which has a great value, and the parable of the fishing net. The two parables of the treasure and the pearl, suggest that the kingdom of God is the supreme value of life, worth the material sacrifice. The two parables underscore the priceless value of the kingdom of God for which no sacrifice is too great. While the precious pearl reminds us about the value of the kingdom of God, for it is like a precious pearl, the parable of the net reminds us of the presence of another group of converts with bad motives in the community.

What do we consider as our personal treasures of life? What treasure in life are we prepared to sacrifice everything or even offer the ultimate sacrifice of our life to attain it? The Church teaches that every person is sometimes confronted by situations that make moral judgements less assured and decisions difficult. In every decision, a person must always earnestly seek what is right and good and discern the will of God expressed in divine law (CCC#1787).

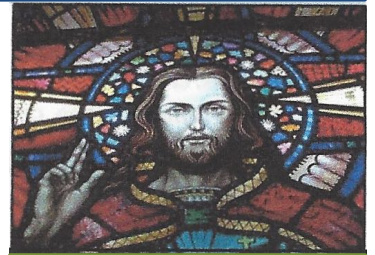
The ultimate value of the kingdom of God or God's kingly rule is a question about the priority of values. In a society that is ever more doing away with Christian sacred values, such as the value of life, sound judgement about a priority of values is of great importance to reflect on the society that requires sacrifices. As a Christian, the truth is the greatest treasure of life. The truth can only be known through the Holy Spirit. The two parables demonstrate the search for the TRUTH and the JOY in finding it. Those who respond to Christ's invitation to the kingdom of heaven will find the truth, while those who do not do so will remain puzzled by the parables he preached (CCC#546). Earthly riches must not be an end in itself, but a means to an end. May the Holy Spirit inspire our hearts to understand that the kingdom of God is worth everything.

**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 in 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, 29 July	5.00 pm	Intentions of John McKenna Who is Unwell
Sunday, 30 July	9.00 am	Peace in the World
Sunday, 30 July	11.00 am	Intentions of the Young People of the Parish
Tuesday, 1 August	9.30 am	<i>Feast of St Alphonsus Liguori</i> People of the Parish
Wednesday, 2 August	9.30 am	Mary Wells, RIP
Thursday, 3 August	9.30 am	Tina Stanyer, Anniversary, RIP
Friday, 4 August	10.00 am	<i>Feast of St John Vianney</i> Michael Charles Brown, Anniversary, RIP



**PRIEST IN CHARGE**

Father Jerry Manomey  
[fjerry.manaomey@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:fjerry.manaomey@northamptondiocese.org)  
Contact: 01525 715 109

**SECRETARY**

Aggie Keeble  
[parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org)

**WEBSITE**

[www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)  
Follow us on Facebook.

**SAFEGUARDING**

Paula Bates  
[safeguarding.flitwick@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.flitwick@northamptondiocese.org)

**HOSPITAL CONTACTS**

Bedford - Deacon Tony Quinlan 01234 950 453  
[tonyquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:tonyquinlan@gmail.com)  
Luton – Fr. Liam Castle  
[frliam.castle@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:frliam.castle@northamptondiocese.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. Contact Suzanne while Aggie is on leave at [smyates47@gmail.com](mailto:smyates47@gmail.com)

## DIARY DATES

- ✠ **FIRST FRIDAY**  
As this coming Friday 4 August is the first Friday of the month, we will have Mass for the sick followed by Adoration until 11.30 am.
- ✠ **WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) 2023 @ LISBON, PORTUGAL – 2 to 6 August 2023**  
The Theme for WYD 2023 is '*Mary arose and went with haste*', taken from Luke's Gospel chapter 1 verse 39. Pope Francis encourages young people to follow the Marian example of 'setting out, in haste, to serve, to help' others. He also recalls that in the context of war 'I would like to see in Lisbon a seed of the world of the future.' He explains that Mary's attitude is a lesson for all her peers, for 'as soon as Mary knew she was going to be the mother of God, she didn't stay there taking a selfie or showing off.' Rather, 'The first thing she did was to set out on a journey, in haste, to serve, to help.' Later, he confides his dream 'to see a seed for the world's future,' a world in which love at a time when 'we are at war' and joy 'because if we Christians have no joy, we are not credible, no one will believe us' are at the centre.  
<https://www.lisboa2023.org/en/official-schedule-for-pope-s-visit>
- ✠ **SECOND COLLECTION – 12 and 13 August**  
The Sunday formerly called Home Mission Sunday, is now Evangelii Gaudium Sunday. Named after Pope Francis' first (solo) Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of the Gospel, the day offers the Catholic community in England and Wales the opportunity to be joyous in proclaiming the faith – seeking new ways of understanding the faith and reaching out to others. All money raised helps spread the faith in our diocese. Please be as generous as you can.
- ✠ **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**  
This will be held on 30 September at Buckden Towers. The theme of the day is Tasting from the Carmelite Spring. It will be led by Deacon Philip. Flyers are available at the back of the church. To attend, fill out booking form on the back and return to Suzanne or leave in the sacristy.
- ✠ **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**  
This will be held after 10.00 am Mass on Friday 29 September. More information to come.

## OTHER NOTICES

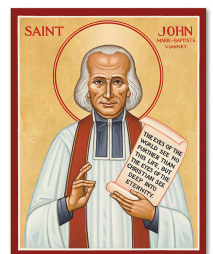
- ✠ **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WITH FR. JERRY**  
Spiritual direction takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.00 to 7.00 pm. Please contact Fr. Jerry or Aggie to book.
- ✠ **LEAVE**  
Aggie is on leave until 7 August, if you have any queries please contact Suzanne on [smyates47@gmail.com](mailto:smyates47@gmail.com)
- ✠ **REMINDER**  
There will be no children's liturgy at 11.00 am Mass during August.

### Feast of St Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney – 4 August

He was the son of a peasant farmer, and a slow and unpromising candidate for the priesthood: he was eventually ordained on account of his devoutness rather than any achievement or promise. In 1818 he was sent to be the parish priest of Ars-en-Dombes, an isolated village some distance from Lyon, and remained there for the rest of his life because his parishioners would not let him leave. He was a noted preacher and a celebrated confessor: such was his fame and his reputation for insight into his penitents' souls and their future, that he had to spend up to eighteen hours a day in the confessional, so great was the demand. The tens of thousands of people who came to visit this obscure parish priest turned Ars into a place of pilgrimage. *Which we visited in May this year.*

'The Curé refused to sit for a portrait. When the sculptor Cabuchet surreptitiously tried to capture his features in a ball of wax during the catechism, Vianney sternly bounced him out of the church.' (*The Curé d'Ars Today*, by G.W.Rutler, 1988).

The French state recognised his eminence by awarding him the medal of the Légion d'Honneur in 1848, and he sold it and gave the money to the poor.



Adapted from *Universalis*

### MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly. The collection was £197.20.  
Thank you very much for your generosity. Finance Committee