

Sacred Heart Flitwick

22 Sunday in Ordinary Time

3 September 2023



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: A follower of Christ must renounce himself and take up the cross

The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the 'one mediator between God and humanity'. Jesus calls his disciples to take up their cross and follow him (CCC#618). The cross has become a symbol of salvific suffering for Christ. Christ's Passion is the will of the Father.

We often experience reluctance to accept the cross because of its excruciating pain and suffering. But what is consoling to us is to know that Christ equally experienced the same reluctance in the flesh and struggled to overcome it. According to Saint Rose of Lima, 'Apart from the Cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven' (CCC#555).

It was very difficult for Peter to accept the fact that the Messiah was destined to suffer and to die on a cross and to be raised up on the third day. In response, Jesus compared Peter with Satan, an occasion of sin, one who would lead him to abandon the sacred plan of God. Christ removed that his mission of redemption on earth included terrible suffering, death and Resurrection. Jesus considers the sacrifice on the cross as the will of God. It is the only perfect sacrifice Christ offered on the cross as a total offering to the Father's love and our salvation. By uniting ourselves with his sacrifice we can make our lives a sacrifice to God (CCC#2100). There can be no redemption without the cross.

Jesus strongly reminds his disciples about the necessity of carrying one's cross if one wants to be his/her disciple. The church reminds us about our individual 'crosses' as we journey in our Christian life. Every penance imposed upon us after a personal confession is meant to encourage and remind us above all to accept the cross, we bear (CCC#1460). Also, the way of Christian perfection passes by way of the cross. No holiness exists without renunciation and spiritual battle (CCC#2015).

For one to be a true disciple of Christ, one must renounce oneself and carry one's cross. A genuine follower of Christ is to surrender oneself totally to God and to be ready to follow him in every aspect of human endeavour by carrying one's cross till death. Are we ready to carry our crosses daily and follow Jesus Christ?

May this sacred offering that we celebrate confer on us always the blessings of salvation that flow from the cross of Christ.



PRIEST IN CHARGE

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SECRETARY

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WEBSITE

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SAFEGUARDING

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HOSPITAL CONTACTS

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

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER THE WORK OF THE SVP

Lord, please bless the Society and its members and all for whom they care. Protect and guide them in their work, grant them energy and wisdom in their dealings with those in need and inspire others to join the Society so that its membership will grow in the years ahead. Amen.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to invite you to their annual general meeting which will take place on **Tuesday 5 September at 7.30 pm in church**. It is a great opportunity to find out about their work and also to ask questions. **Everyone is welcome!**

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday, 2 September	5.00 pm	Ann Hamilton, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday, 3 September	9.00 am	Special Intentions
Sunday, 3 September	11.00 am	Liam Spillane, RIP
Tuesday, 5 September	9.30 am	Tom O'Shaughnessy, RIP
Wednesday, 6 September	9.30 am	No Mass
Thursday, 7 September	1.30 pm	Requiem Mass for Ann Hamilton
Friday, 8 September	10.00 am	People of the Parish

DIARY DATES

- **SVP APPEAL**

The weekend of **Sunday 17 September** will see the annual parish SVP appeal. The SVP aims to help and befriend those in need. On **2 and 3 September**, their annual report will be published prior to the appeal. Envelopes for giving and permitting gift aid will be attached to our report and also available in church. The money raised at this appeal is used to help those who come to the SVP for help with problems during the year and to support their work overseas, all of which is described in the report. **Please be as generous as you can be to support the SVP, both in prayer and financial giving. Thanks in advance.**

- **CAFOD LIVESIMPLY AWARD**

Sacred Heart parish registered for the Cafod LiveSimply Award in 2020 and parishioners made their pledges to live simply, in solidarity with people in poverty and sustainably with creation. We are now relaunching our parish pledges to 'live simply', after all Masses on **2 and 3 September**. **Pledge cards** will be available to complete and display on the noticeboard. More information about the award can be found online <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award>

- **SEWING GROUP**

The sewing group will meet on Monday **4 September from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm**. For details, phone Hilary Brennan on 01525 717 919.

- **THE WELL AT ST JOHN'S**

It will take place on **Tuesday 5 September at 7.00 pm** at St John's Parish Centre in Luton. Please see the poster in the porch for more information.

- **MOTHERS' PRAYERS**

Mothers' Prayers will begin meeting on our 22-year anniversary on **Friday 8 September after the 10.00 am Mass**.

Now is a good time to join us after our summer break. You are very welcome to come and have a coffee with us and sit in for the meeting. We thank Our Lord for many answers to our prayers for our children and families.

- **PARISH RETREAT — TASTING FROM THE CARMELITE SPRING**

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. **Spaces are filling fast!**

- **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

This will be held on **Friday 29 September straight after 10.00 am Mass**.

This year we have three wonderful prizes and tickets are now available after Mass this weekend. Tickets are £1 each and £5 for a strip.

Please see Suzanne if you can help on the day. If you have something we could add to a tombola table this will be much appreciated.



OTHER NOTICES

- **FUNERAL OF ANN HAMILTON**

The Funeral Mass for Ann Hamilton will take place at **Sacred Heart Flitwick on Thursday 7 September at 1.30 pm**. **All our sympathy and prayers go to Ann's family, particularly to Adrian Hamilton.**

- **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Children's Liturgy for children aged 4 to 7 will resume on **Sunday 3 September at 11 am Mass**.

- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024**

If you have a child who will be in Year 3 or above this September, and whom you would like 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**.

MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly

The collection was £213.80

Thank you very much for your generosity

Finance Committee