

Sacred Heart Flitwick

First Sunday of Advent

3 December 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: Be on your guard, stay awake

With the first Sunday of Advent, a new liturgical year begins in the Catholic Church, marking the cycle of liturgical celebrations through which we will have the opportunity to experience all the mysteries of Christ and salvation. While the world celebrates its Christmas with an orgy of merchandising before the year's end, the church keeps its sober yet hopeful Advent.

On the first Sunday of Advent, Jesus invites us to be on our guard and stay awake for we do not know the time of his second coming. Though Christ is already present in his Church, his reign is nevertheless yet to be fulfilled with power and great glory by the King's return to earth. This reign is still under attack by the evil powers, even though they have been defeated definitively by Christ's Passover. That is why Christians pray, above all in the Eucharist, to hasten Christ's return by saying to him, Maranatha! Our Lord, Come! (CCC#671).

His second coming could be likened to death. No one knows when death will come knocking at the door. Since no one knows the time, we need always to be ready. Jesus explains what being awake means with the story of a man going on a journey and assigning tasks to his servants. If a servant is faithful and trustworthy, they perform the task assigned to them. It is immaterial to know when the owner of the house will be back.

Since Christ confirms that no one knows the day or the hour of his second coming, what he says is that we need to stay awake. According to the Church, the present time is the time of the spirit and of the witness, but also a time still marked by distress and the trial of evil which does not spare the Church and ushers in the struggles of the last days. It is a time of waiting and watching (CCC#672).

May the new liturgical year, which announces the coming of the King to be born in Bethlehem bring us repentance and growth in our expectant faith.

CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR DECEMBER—REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees, migrants and victims of war. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday 2 December	5.00 pm	Intentions of Phil and Martin Kerrigan
Sunday 3 December	9.00 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 3 December	11.00 am	Hetty Flitton, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday 5 December	9.30 am	Youth of the Parish
Wednesday 6 December	9.30 am	Intentions of Ela and Tomasz Kapitan <i>St Nicholas, Bishop</i>
Thursday 7 December	9.30 am	Private Intentions <i>St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor</i> 24-Hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday 8 December	10.00 am	Mary and Thomas Fahey, Anniversary, RIP <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>



PRIEST IN CHARGE

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SECRETARY

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WEBSITE

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Follow us on Facebook.

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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

- **SEWING GROUP**
The sewing group will meet on Monday 4 December at 2.00 pm. For details, phone Hilary Brennan on 01525 717 919
- **MOTHERS' PRAYERS**
Mothers' Prayers is taking a short break and will resume meetings in the New Year.
- **CHRISTMAS CARDS**
Christmas cards will be available for purchase after each Mass on **2/3 December**;
After these dates, the cards will be left for those who still wish to purchase them until Wednesday 20 December. Cash and card will be accepted.
- **DIVINE MERCY**
Divine Mercy will be prayed **every Friday at 3.00 pm at Sacred Heart Flitwick**. We would like to invite all the parishioners and we are planning to extend our invitation to other parishes.
- **SVP GIVING TREE**
The SVP Advent Giving Tree returns. The Tree is invisible but the people we seek to support are very real – even if we all sometimes pretend they are invisible too. They are the Homeless & Rootless and this year we are adding women and children fleeing domestic abuse. We will send your gifts to SMART in Bedford and NOAH in Luton again who work with the Homeless & Rootless and Bedford Women's Refuge (for women and Children fleeing domestic abuse). The items we are seeking are much the same as usual: socks, gloves and hats, men's pants, ladies knickers, shower gel, liquid soap, soap, shampoo, disposable razors and foam, deodorant for men and women, toothbrushes and toothpaste, small bars of chocolate and sweets. Basic items rather than expensive are appreciated just as much and small quantities rather than large are more useful to the users. There will be collection boxes for your gifts at the church on the weekends of **2 and 3 December and 9 and 10 December**. We thank you for your past generosity and hope for more this year for our neighbours on the edges of our society.
- **ADVENT CONVERSATIONS 2023**
Next sessions will take place on **Friday 1 December and 8 December at 4.30 pm**.
- **NEW FACEBOOK PAGE**
Please follow us on our new Facebook page which can be found at **flitwick.sacred.heart**. We will post all the updates regarding Masses, services and events.
- **24-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**
On Thursday 7 December there will be twenty-four-hour Advent Eucharistic Adoration for Peace in the Family, starting with Mass at 9.30 am and finishing with Mass at 10.00 am the following day. Please sign the sheet in the porch if you would like to register for a particular slot.
- **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**
Tickets for the Christmas raffle are on sale **after all Masses till 17 December**. The raffle will be drawn at the **Carols on 17 December**. There are four prizes.
- **RECONCILIATION SERVICE**
There will be a reconciliation service on **12 December 2023 at 7.30 pm**
- **ADVENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN**
It will take place on **Saturday 16 December from 10.00 am till 11.00 am**.
- **MASS WITH BISHOP DAVID**
On Saturday 17 December at 11.00 am Bishop David will present **Benemerenti medals** to our parishioners Klara Eves and Suzanne Yates.
- **CAROL SERVICE**
Our Carol Service will take place on **Sunday 17 December at 3.00 pm**. It will be followed by drawing of the Christmas raffle and refreshments. There will be Christingle bags for children.
- **FR RICHARD MORONEY, RIP**
We are sad to announce the passing of **Fr Richard Moroney**. The funeral Mass will take place on **Tuesday 19 December at 11.00 am at Holy Family Catholic Church Luton, LU3 3TA**. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

OTHER NOTICES

- **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**
Please collect a leaflet with Advent and Christmas programme from the porch.
- **CAFOD WORLD GIFT - WORLD DAY OF THE POOR**
If you are stuck for ideas about a present for friend or relative, you might like to consider CAFOD World Gifts. The idea is to send a virtual present which will help someone in need in the developing world. There are many gifts to choose from. You can pick up a card at the back of the church or find details online at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk. **The deadline is 14 December**.
- **BAPTISM**
Ruby Mary Devaney, daughter of Sarah and Jamie, was baptised on Sunday 26 November at Sacred Heart Flitwick. We ask the parish to pray for Ruby and her family. We wish them all God's blessings on their journey of faith.

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £270.20
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee