



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: The mission of John the Baptist and the message of repentance

The Gospel of Mark introduces an important personality on the Second Sunday of Advent. He is John the Baptist, with a mission inspired by the love of God in the wilderness proclaiming repentance for the forgiveness of sins. A third-century theologian observed a pattern that contains a great mystery: whenever the Lord Jesus came, he was preceded in that coming by John the Baptist. Thus, even in the womb, John leapt to announce the presence of the Lord.

The church's catechism describes him as the Elijah who must come. The fire of the Spirit dwells in him and makes him the forerunner of the coming Lord. In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit completes the work of making a people prepared for the Lord (CCC#718).

The fire of the Spirit dwells in him and makes him the forerunner of the coming Lord. In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit completes the work of '(making) ready a people prepared for the Lord' (CCC#718). John the Baptist is 'more than a prophet. In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah.' He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the 'voice' of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John came to bear witness to the light. In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfils the longing of the angels. He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God... Behold, the Lamb of God' (CCC#719). Finally, with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of 'the divine likeness', prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John's baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth.

Our preparation for the coming of the Messiah on Christmas Day must be one like John the Baptist. We must show repentance in our speech, in our actions, in our thoughts, and our personalities. 'God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but he has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination.'

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 9 December	5.00 pm	Intentions of Ann O'Sullivan and Family
Sunday 10 December	9.00 am	Intentions of Sister Pauline and Kathleen
Sunday 10 December	11.00 am	Father Joseph Ormai, RIP
Tuesday 12 December	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Communion <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
Tuesday 12 December	7.30 pm	Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 13 December	9.30 am	Intentions of Mary McGoldrick <i>St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>
Wednesday 13 December	2.00 pm	Requiem Mass for Michael Canterbury, RIP
Thursday 14 December	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Communion <i>St John of the Cross</i>
Friday 15 December	10.00 am	Donna Spillane, Anniversary, RIP



PRIEST IN CHARGE

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SECRETARY

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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

- **CHRISTMAS CARDS**
Christmas cards are available for purchase after each Mass.
- **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**
This weekend is the last opportunity to donate to the SVP Advent Giving Tree – don't miss this chance to bring a little Christmas cheer into the lives of the homeless and rootless and women and children fleeing domestic abuse. We will send your gifts to SMART in Bedford & NO-AH in Luton who work with the Homeless & Rootless and Bedford Women's Refuge. 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, sweets. Basic items rather than expensive are appreciated just as much and small quantities rather than large are more useful to the users. The collection boxes will be out for the last time at **all Masses on 9 and 10 December**. Thank you, on behalf of all those who will benefit for all the gifts already donated and those still on the way.
- **ADVENT CONVERSATIONS 2023**
Next sessions will take place on **Friday 8 December and 15 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.
- **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**
Tickets for the Christmas raffle are on sale **after all Masses till 17 December**. The raffle will be drawn at **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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve Mass for Families	24 December at 5.00 pm
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	24 December at 9.00 pm
Christmas Day Mass	25 December at 10.00 am
New Year's Eve Watchnight Service and Mass	31 December at 10.00 pm and Mass at midnight

OTHER NOTICES

- **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**
Please collect a leaflet with the 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**.
- **FUNERAL**
We are sad to announce the passing of **Michael Canterbury** and **Desmond Chin-Ah-Sang**. May they rest in peace. Amen. Our sympathy and prayers go their families and friends.

MASS OFFERINGS
 Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
 The collection was £281.50
 The collection for Bishop's Maintenance Fund was £215.20
 Thank you very much for your generosity
 Finance Committee