



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: John the Baptist, a voice that cries in the wilderness

The third Sunday of advent continues with the story of John the Baptist. John's Gospel perceives John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus Christ. He joyfully comes to proclaim the fulfilment of God's plan in history and prepare us for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

He does not draw attention to himself in any way either as a priest or a Levite. He makes three specific denials. He says he is not the Messiah; neither is he Elijah nor the prophet. He denied being the Messiah because the Messiah was among them, but they did not know him. He denied being Elijah because he had not come to settle all disputes. Secondly, he has not come to anoint the Messiah to his kingly office. He was not the prophet. This is because he does not see himself as the greatest of all the prophets, Prophet par excellence.

If John the Baptist is none of those popular figures then who is he? What is he doing? The first question is answered from Isaiah 40:3; He is nothing but a VOICE inviting humanity to prepare the way for the King. John the Baptist sees Jesus as his superior, he says, 'I am not fit to kneel and undo the strap of his sandals'. His final act of utter humility is when he proclaims; 'He must increase, I must decrease' (John 3:30).

Christians are supposed to be joyful persons. Pope Benedict's famous quote is 'Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but an encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction'. Unfortunately, people outside the Church do not associate Christians with joyful spirits. Therefore, our search for God, the source of our Joy, demands every effort of intellect, a sound will, an upright heart and the witness of others who teach us to seek God (CCC#30).

Like John the Baptist, we are reminded to know who we are and our mission. We can always be assured of happiness when we remind ourselves that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son to us on Christmas day.

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 16 December	5.00 pm	Intentions of Maureen Murphy and Family
Sunday 17 December	9.00 am	Intentions of Eileen Barnet
Sunday 17 December	11.00 am	Fr Richard Moroney, Recently Deceased, RIP (live-streamed)
Tuesday 19 December	9.30 am	Intentions of Lorna O'Connor
Wednesday 20 December	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Desmond Chin-Ah-Sang, RIP
Thursday 21 December	9.30 am	Intentions of Ela and Tomasz Kapitan <i>St Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor</i>
Friday 22 December	10.00 am	Fr Frank Duane, Anniversary, RIP



PRIEST IN CHARGE

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SECRETARY

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WEBSITE

www.sacredheartflitwick.
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Follow us on Facebook.

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HOSPITAL CONTACTS

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

- **CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**

All collections at Christmas Masses are for our priest, Fr Jerry Manomey. This is the way of saying thank you to him for his services throughout the year. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

- **CHURCH CLEANING**

Please help us with church cleaning on **Tuesday 19 December at 7.30 pm**. Thank you for all your help.

- **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**

Many thanks from the SVP for your generous response to the Giving Tree Appeal for SMART, NOAH and Bedford Women's Refuge. You gave lots of everything we listed. So many items were offered that we had problems in keeping count of them. So, very roughly, there were well over 1200 items and many of them had multiple contents. Shower gel/soap more than 220, toothbrushes/toothpaste more than 210, more than 225 pairs of socks, gloves and hats and more than 180 chocolate bars or sweets, etc. Everything you gave has now been passed to SMART, NOAH and the Women's Refuge. They are very pleased to get them and have said that they will be using some of them long after Christmas. Well done and God bless you all.

- **ADVENT CONVERSATIONS 2023**

Next sessions will take place on **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**

This is the last weekend for Christmas raffle tickets. The raffle will be drawn at **Carols on 17 December at 3.00 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.

- **MOTHERS' PRAYERS**

We shall be meeting on the 12 and 26 January after 10.00 am Mass. Ring Sue Barley 01525 634186 for information.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve Mass for Families (live-streamed)	24 December at 5.00 pm
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	24 December at 9.00 pm
Christmas Day Mass	25 December at 9.00 am
Christmas Day Mass	25 December at 11.00 am
St Stephen's, Boxing Day	26 December at 10.00 am

OTHER NOTICES

- **READERS NEEDED**

We are in need of more readers who could read during weekend Masses. If you think you could help, please contact Aggie on parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondioocese.org. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

- **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**

Please collect a leaflet with the Advent and Christmas programme from the porch.

- **FUNERAL**

We are sad to announce the passing of **Desmond Chin-Ah-Sang**. May he rest in peace. Amen. Our sympathy and prayers go to their families and friends.

MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are **£860.00 weekly**

The collection was **£211.50**

Thank you very much for your generosity

Finance Committee