



### 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: Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.

The last Sunday of Advent is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Throughout the Old Testament, the mission of many holy women prepared for that of Mary. At the very beginning there was Eve, despite her disobedience, she receives the promise of a posterity that will be victorious over evil, as well as the promise that she will be the mother of all the living. Then another woman called Sarah conceived despite her old age. Mary stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord (CCC#489). Definitely, she had her own plans in life but God had a greater plan for her.

The Angel Gabriel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid, you have won God's Favour.' These words prompted fear and inadequacy in Mary, which led to the question 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The divine response was given by the power of the Spirit: The Holy Spirit will come upon you (see CCC#484). The Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, is sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary (CCC#485).

The Lord was with Mary in the Holy Spirit coming down upon her. In the womb of the Virgin Mary, Christ, that is to say, anointed by the Holy Spirit, from the beginning of his human existence, though the manifestation of this fact takes place only progressively: to the shepherd, to the Magi, to John the Baptist, to the disciples. In fact, the whole life of Jesus Christ will make manifest 'how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power (CCC#486).

The Gospel of Luke connects Jesus's annunciation with John's conception to stress how God works mysteriously among humanity. Consequently, Mary said, 'Yes' despite all the unforeseen difficulties that will come her way. In return, God gave Mary more hope, peace, joy, and love than any carols of a choir.

Mary has become a model for all believers because she responded wholeheartedly to God's plan by saying; 'I am the handmaid of God' Is God asking me to do anything that makes me feel quite unprepared? May the response of Mary inspire you.



### PRIEST IN CHARGE

Father Jerry Manomey  
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Contact: 01525 715 109

### SECRETARY

Aggie Keeble  
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### WEBSITE

www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook.

### SAFEGUARDING

Paula Bates  
safeguarding.flitwick@northamptondiocese.org

### HOSPITAL CONTACTS

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

### THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday 23 December	5.00 pm	Intentions of Mary Keating
Sunday 24 December	10.00 am	Intentions of Sr Patricia McManus
<b>CHRISTMAS MASSES</b>		
Sunday 24 December	5.00 pm	Children and Youth of the Parish
Sunday 24 December	9.00 pm	Intentions of Jenny and Bob O'Donoghue
Monday 25 December	9.00 am	People of the Parish
Monday 25 December	11.00 am	The Sick In Our Parish
Tuesday 26 December	9.30 am	Ann Gardener, RIP <i>St Stephen, The First Martyr</i>
Wednesday 27 December	10.00 am	Private Intentions <i>St John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
Thursday 28 December	9.30 am	Angelo, Lauren and All the Unborn Babies, RIP <i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>
Friday 29 December	10.00 am	George Ormai, Anniversary, RIP <i>St Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</i>

## 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.

- **CHRISTMAS EVE MASS FOR FAMILIES AT 5.00 PM**

We would like to encourage children to dress as characters from Nativity story.

- **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.

- Next sessions will take place on **15 December at 4.30 pm**.

- **WATCHNIGHT SERVICE ON 31 DECEMBER**

On **New Year's Eve on 31 December** there will be a Watchnight Service with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. It will start at **10.00 pm** and it will be followed by **Mass at midnight**.

- **MOTHERS' PRAYERS**

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

## 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!

- **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**

Christmas Raffle raised £378.10! Thank you for your generosity.

- **200 CLUB WINNERS IN DECEMBER**

**1st - Hugh Davies, 2nd - Mick Fagan, 3rd - Debbie Lewis**. Congratulations!

- **BENEMERENTI MEDALS**

Congratulations to Klara and Suzanne on receiving the Benemerenti medal for their work and contributions to the Church. God bless them and their families.



*May you enjoy a joy-filled day celebrating  
Jesus' birth. Merry Christmas!*



### MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly

The collection was £277.60

Thank you very much for your generosity

Finance Committee

### CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR 23 and 24 DECEMBER—EXPECTANT MOTHERS

God of infinite goodness, watch over expectant mothers as they await the birth of their child. Grant these women confidence and strength to dispel their anxiety and fear. Bless them with the courage and faith of Mary, always listening to your will and trusting in your loving care. As they prepare to bring new life into the world, grace them with good health and great joy. Amen.