

# Sacred Heart Flitwick

## The Holy Family

31 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

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Theme: For my eyes have seen the salvation prepared for all nations

The Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth celebrates the obedience of Jesus towards Joseph, the foster father and Mary his mother. Jesus Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Jesus and Mary (CCC#1655). Simeon and Anna, representing the faithful Israelites, waited patiently to see the salvation and deliverance of Israel and all the nations. Jesus' obedience to his mother and legal father fulfils the fourth commandment perfectly and was the temporal image of his filial obedience to his Father in heaven. The everyday obedience of Jesus to Joseph and Mary both announced and anticipated the obedience of Holy Thursday when Jesus said not my will, but your will be done (CCC#532).

The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus, thus, the school of the Gospel. The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life. The home of Nazareth is also the home of carpenter's Son, where we understand the lesson and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work (CCC#533). Simeon described the Holy Family as the salvation of the world after the Holy Spirit prompted him. In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centres of living, radiant faith. For this reason, the Second Vatican Council, using an ancient expression, calls the family the *Ecclesia domestica*, the domestic church. It is in the bosom of the family, that parents are by word and example becomes first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. They are to encourage their children in vocations which are proper to each child, fostering with special care any religious vocation (CCC#1656). Today, all families are invited to a life of faith and obedience. Like the family of Jesus, there will be surprises. There will be ups and downs and moments of contradiction, but there is hope in Christ. Like Simeon and Anna, Joseph and Mary put their faith in the Lord till they were rewarded with the sight of the new-born Saviour of the world.

May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind revive in families a desire and lesson. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, its sacred and inviolable character, and its lesson of work.

### THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday 30 December	5.00 pm	Intentions of Craig Bavister
Sunday 31 December	9.00 am	Intentions of the Delahunt Family
Sunday 31 December	11.00 am	Patricia Spillane, 2nd Anniversary, RIP
<b>Sunday 31 December</b>	<b>10.00 pm</b>	<b>Watchnight Service followed by Mass at around 12.25 am</b>
Tuesday 2 January	9.30 am	No Mass <i>Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops</i>
Wednesday 3 January	9.30 am	No Mass
Thursday 4 January	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Friday 5 January	10.00 am	Intentions of Wanvisa Kammi-On, John O'Mahony and Family <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>



### 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.

## DIARY DATES

- **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.
- **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 around 12.25 am**. **More details on our website or Facebook**.
- **SEWING GROUP**  
The sewing group will meet **on 8 January from 2.00 pm**. For details, phone Hilary Brennan on 01525 717 919
- **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@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org). We are looking forward to hearing from you!
- **LIVE-STREAMING VOLUNTEERS**  
If you would like to help with live-streaming, please contact Suzanne Yates on [smyates47@gmail.com](mailto:smyates47@gmail.com). Full training provided! We are looking for volunteers who could live-stream either Saturday 5.00 pm Mass or special Masses during the week.
- **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.
- **COLLECTION DURING CHRISTMAS**  
A big thank you for the collection for Fr Jerry during Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

On 1 January we celebrate the liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is the Octave of Christmas. The honouring of Mary as the Mother of God can be traced back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. By the seventh century, 1 January was observed as a celebration of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the thirteenth century, the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ had come to replace the feast honouring Mary; however in 1751, after a push in Portugal for an official feast day celebrating Mary's divine maternity, Pope Benedict XIV allowed Portugal's churches to devote a feast to Mary on the first Sunday in May. Eventually, the feast extended to other countries and in 1914 began to be observed on 11 October. In 1931, Pope Pius XI extended the feast to the entire Church and in 1974 Pope Paul VI removed the feast of the Circumcision of Christ from the liturgical calendar and replaced it with the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, bringing Mary's feast day back to the first day of the year. The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title Mother of God is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means God-bearer. Calling Mary Mother of God is the highest honour we can give to her. Just as Christmas honours Jesus as the Prince of Peace, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honours Mary as the Queen of Peace. New Year's Day is also designated as the World Day of Peace, further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

Adapted from <http://holyfamily.org>

# Happy New Year 2024!

#### MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly  
The crib collection was £175 .00  
Thank you for the collection for Fr Jerry.  
Thank you very much for your generosity  
Finance Committee



Benemerenti Medal recipients - Klara and Suzanne