

Sacred Heart Flitwick

The Epiphany of the Lord

7 January 2024



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: We saw his star and have come to do him homage.

The feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (Magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. Specifically, Epiphany manifests Jesus as the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God, and the Saviour of the world. The magi represent the neighbouring pagan religions demonstrating the first fruits of the nations that welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The Magi's coming to Jerusalem to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations (CCC#528). Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

The Gospel gives a dramatic narration of how the Magi journeyed to see infant Jesus. They found their way to Jerusalem, not by following the Jewish scriptures but by following a star in the heavens. A star led the wise men to the 'mystery.' The gifts of the three wise men point to the unique identity and mission of the boy-king Jesus. The gold signifies his kingship, and incense signifies his divinity, his holiness and righteousness. And myrrh signifies his redemptive suffering. The myrrh is used to embalm the bodies of the dead. Jesus Christ came into the world to die for our sins.

The message of Epiphany is our ability and desire to approach God in Jesus Christ on a personal encounter as a gift offered by God through the power of creation and the environment. The role of the star in guiding the Magi to the Christ child reminds us of the role of creation and the environment in fulfilling the ultimate plan of God. Henceforth, we have the light of Christ himself guarding the people of God. May the celebration of the Holy Eucharist fill our hearts with the light of Christ.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR JANUARY—PEACE ON EARTH

O Almighty God, turn, we pray, the hearts of all peoples and their rulers, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, peace may be established among all nations on the foundation of justice, righteousness and truth, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday 6 January	5.00 pm	Intentions of Hannah and Matt Clague
Sunday 7 January	9.00 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 7 January	11.00 am	Hugo Gallagher, Recently Deceased, RIP
Monday 8 January	9.30 am	Hugo Gallagher, Recently Deceased, RIP <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>
Tuesday 9 January	9.30 am	No Mass
Wednesday 10 January	9.30 am	Intentions of Eleanor Murphy
Thursday 11 January	9.30 am	No Mass
Friday 12 January	10.00 am	Peace in Ukraine and in the Holy Land <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot</i>



PRIEST IN CHARGE

Father Jerry Manomey
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SECRETARY

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WEBSITE

www.sacredheartflitwick.
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Follow us on Facebook.

SAFEGUARDING

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HOSPITAL CONTACTS

Bedford - Deacon Tony
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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

- **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.

- **READERS' RETREAT**

On Saturday 20 January at 10.00 am there will be a day of retreat for the readers and for those who would like to become a reader. The theme is, 'so shall my Word be that goes forth from my mouth' Isaiah 55: 10- 11. Renewal or new certificates will be presented at Masses on 20 and 21 January, as it is the Sunday of the Word of God. Please contact Aggie if you would like to attend, on parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org so that we can make sure we have enough cake!

- **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

- **THANK YOU**

A big thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas Masses and Carol Service in December. We thank the readers, altar servers, eucharistic ministers, musicians, sacristans, welcomers, catechists, live-streamers and those who served the refreshments, cleaned the church and arranged the flowers. Many thanks to all the volunteers and everyone who is involved in running our church. God bless you all!

- **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. 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. 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.

- **RECYCLED SANCTUARY LAMPS**

We have received a box of new sanctuary lamps that have been recycled from all the candle cases that were sent back for recycling from our church. It has taken two years to get this result. Thank you Hugh for organising it.

- **YEAR OF PRAYER**

2024 at the request of Pope Francis will be dedicated to Prayer, in preparation for the jubilee year 2025.

FEAST OF ST AELRED

Feast of St Aelred – 12 January Aelred was born in Hexham circa 1109. His family was well connected and at an early age he was sent into the service of King David of Scotland. There he rose to the position of Master of the Royal Household. In time he became attracted to the religious life, but he was also much attached to the life he lived at court and to King David himself. It took a considerable personal struggle for him, at the age of 24, to give up his secular pursuits and to enter the newly founded Cistercian monastery of Rievaulx in Yorkshire in 1133. At 34, he moved from there and took charge of a new foundation in Lincolnshire, but within four years he had returned to Rievaulx as Abbot where he remained for the rest of his life.

He died in 1167. Aelred is remembered both for his energy and for his gentleness. His writings and his sermons were characterised by a deep love of the Scriptures and by a very personal love of Christ 'as friend and Saviour'. He was sensitive and understanding in his dealings with his fellow monks and under his direction the monastery at Rievaulx grew to an extraordinary size. He did not enjoy robust health and the last ten years of his life were marked by a long and painful illness. His position as abbot required him to travel on visitation to monasteries, not only in England and Scotland but even to France and the physical suffering and exhaustion which this incurred seems to have been considerable. A contemporary account of the last year of his life describes him as being left helpless on his bed unable to speak or move for an hour, after celebrating his morning Mass.

Aelred was a singularly attractive figure, a man of great spiritual power but also of warm friendliness and humanity. He has been called the St Bernard of the North.

Adapted from Universalis.

MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly

The collection was £214.20

The last week's crib collection was £85

Thank you very much for your generosity

Finance Committee

