

Sacred Heart Flitwick

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

14 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: Look, there is the Lamb of God...

At the end of the Christmas season, John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the river Jordan to usher him into public ministry. The Gospel reading describes Jesus' public ministry and how John encountered Jesus and designated him as the Lamb of God. Why is Jesus Christ called the Lamb of God? By using this term to identify Christ, John the Baptist affirmed the redemptive sacrifice Christ would make for the salvation of all people. The lamb is an image associated with the Passover feast and Exodus event when God told the Israelites to sacrifice a spotless lamb and smear its blood on the doorposts of their houses to be spared from the tenth plague.

After agreeing to baptise Jesus along with the sinners, John the Baptist looked at Jesus and pointed him out as the 'Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world'. By doing so, he reveals that Jesus is at the same time the suffering servant who silently allows himself to be led to the slaughter and who bears the sin of the multitudes. Also, as the Lamb of God, Jesus represents Israel's redemption at the first Passover (CCC# 608).

The two disciples of John were attracted to follow Jesus. They went and saw where Jesus lived and stayed with him for the rest of the day. They encountered Jesus Christ and learned about his mission, which is to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mk 10:45). After the personal encounter with Jesus Christ, one of the disciples, Andrew speaks to his brother about Jesus: 'We have found the Messiah, which means the Christ and he took Simon to Jesus'.

The action of the two disciples of John and Andrew specifically demonstrates the process of relationship or discipleship. The disciple needs courage to answer the call and follow Jesus Christ. The disciple must desire to 'come and see' and have a personal encounter with Jesus. We need a personal experience of the truth in Jesus Christ. The disciple must then go and bring others to 'come and see' and encounter Jesus Christ. Until we follow Jesus Christ and have a personal experience of him, we cannot share our convictions about Jesus with others. In fact, we cannot call ourselves true disciples of Jesus.

May our relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist purify our personal sins. Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

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

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|----------------------|----------|--|
| Saturday 13 January | 5.00 pm | Private Intentions |
| Sunday 14 January | 9.00 am | Deceased from the Moynihan Family, RIP |
| Sunday 14 January | 11.00 am | Intentions of Fr Jerry Manomey |
| Tuesday 16 January | 9.30 am | Ellen Callaghan, 12th Anniversary, RIP |
| Wednesday 17 January | 9.30 am | People of the Parish <i>St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot</i> |
| Thursday 18 January | 9.30 am | No Mass |
| Friday 19 January | 10.00 am | Hugh Gallagher, Recently Deceased, RIP <i>St Wulstan, Bishop, Religious</i> |



PRIEST IN CHARGE

Father Jerry Manomey

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SECRETARY

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WEBSITE

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Follow us on Facebook.

SAFEGUARDING

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HOSPITAL CONTACTS

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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

- **CRIB COLLECTION**

This Sunday is the last day for the Crib collection for the suffering in the Holy Land.

- **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!

- **PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY—CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Churches together would like to invite everyone to a Taizé style prayer for Christian unity. It will take place on Sunday **21 January in St Andrew's Church in Ampthill at 6.30 pm**. Looking forward to seeing you.

- **MOTHERS' PRAYERS**

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

- **SEWING GROUP**

The sewing group will meet on **5 February from 2.00 pm**. For details, phone Hilary Brennan on 01525 717 919

- **ANNUAL QUIET DAY**

Annual Quiet Day will take place on Saturday 10 February from 10.00 am till 3.00 pm at Sacred Heart Flitwick. We will be reflecting on Luminous Mysteries of the rosary.

- **LUX WEEKEND**

Lux is a residential for young people organised by our diocesan youth ministry team, **NYMO**. From the evening of Friday **9 February till afternoon of Sunday 11 February**, those in school years 7-13, will gather in Northampton. The cost for the weekend is £125 pp and this includes all program activities, all meals and accommodation. Transport to and from the venue is not included. For more information visit <https://nymo.org/lux-dive/> or email info@nymo.org

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. 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.

SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT

Saint Anthony Abbot was an Egyptian hermit who lived in the 3rd century AD. Belonging to a wealthy Christian family, he soon remained only to administer the assets and possessions of the family and to provide for his younger sister. But Anthony chose to give everything he owned to the poor and needy and entrusted his sister to a religious congregation, he took the path of the desert and chose to live as a hermit. For this reason, he is also known as Saint Anthony of the Desert or Saint Anthony the Anchorite. In fact, at that time hermits were also called anchorites and lived in solitude, devoting every moment of their lives to prayer and meditation. Saint Anthony died at the age of 105, living until the end of his days as a hermit in the desert, growing a small vegetable garden and praying.

Saint Anthony is remembered among other things as the patron saint of pets. Every year, on the occasion of his feast, January 17, people bring to bless the pets and in the countryside even those of the stables. This tradition was born in medieval times, when the Antonians, the monks of Saint Anthony, raised pigs that were given to them by the farmers and used them to feed the poor, as well as to create medicated ointments with their fat combined with medicinal herbs.

Saint Anthony also had great thaumaturgical abilities that allowed him to heal many people suffering from terrible diseases, as well as free others from demonic possessions. The cult of the Saint and the thaumaturgic power of his relics has origins in France since the twelfth century.

Adapted from Holyart.co.uk and catholiccuisine.blog.spot

MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly

The collection was £330.30

Thank you very much for your generosity

Finance Committee

