

Sacred Heart Flitwick

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

21 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: Jesus proclaimed the Good News saying, Repent and believe the Good News

The Gospel of Mark announces the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ after the arrest of John. He begins a new era of Good News where there is a call for repentance and to believe in the Good News. The message of repentance and believing the Good News are not only for some categories of people we could label as sinners. The message of repentance is for everybody. The theme of repentance is timeless and perennial.

The Greek word for 'repent' (metanoia) means to change your mind. I'd like to emphasise change because that's not something we humans as a species are attracted to. We're much like animals in this regard. Animals are creatures of habit. Those of us with a dog or a cat know their behaviour is predictable. If we change some daily routine, they'll get upset. I'm afraid to say that we're much the same. We like things the way we like things. And yet the first words out of Jesus' mouth tell us that he's come to give us a philosophy of change: 'Repent'.

This call is an essential part of the proclamation of the kingdom. There are two types of repentance and conversion. In the Church's preaching this call is addressed first to those who do not yet know Christ and his Gospel. It is by faith in the Gospel and by baptism that one renounces evil and gains salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life (CCC#1427).

The second type of repentance or conversion is offered to the baptised catholic. This is an uninterrupted task for the whole church who, 'clasping sinners to her bosom' is at once holy and always in need of purification and therefore follows the path of penance and renewal. This endeavour of conversion is not just a human work but a movement of contrite heart, drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first (CCC#1428).

The first disciples of Jesus were invited to share the intimate communion with himself and clothed them with resplendent grace and Justice (CCC#54). In order to gather scattered humanity, God the Son, called Simon and his brother Andrew as they were casting a net in the lake for they were fishermen. Going further he called James, Son of Zebedee, and his brother John while they were mending their nets. Today, Jesus continues to invite us to follow him because he wants to make us into fishers of men. To form us with the mentality, the skills, and the vision of a fisherman.

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 20 January	5.00 pm	Margaret and Patrick Gibbons, Anniversary, RIP
Sunday 21 January	9.00 am	Intentions of Ciara Gallagher
Sunday 21 January	11.00 am	Intentions of Father Jerry Sean Duee, RIP
Tuesday 23 January	7.30 pm	Intentions of the Dix Family
Wednesday 24 January	9.30 am	Alicia Sanchez de Zamudio, Anniversary, RIP <i>St Francis de Sales</i>
Thursday 25 January	9.30 am	People of the Parish <i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>
Friday 26 January	10.00 am	Intentions of Wanvisa Kammi-On, John O'Mahony and Family <i>Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>



PRIEST IN CHARGE

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SECRETARY

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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

- **SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

On **20 and 21 January**, readers will be presented with certificates as part of the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God.

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

As we celebrate a week of prayer for Christian Unity, Churches Together would like to invite everyone to a Taizé style prayer. 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 programme 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

- **SVP GIVING TREE—A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM THE WOMEN'S REFUGE**

Thank you for making our Christmas so special with all the kindness you have given with every single gift you gave us. Our families flee their homes with few belongings, so it has been a truly special time for them. Your support helped our families have a Christmas they deserved.

- **200 CLUB WINNERS—JANUARY**

1st—Helen Burgess, 2nd—Clare Bevan, 3rd—Kate Mansford. Congratulations!

- **BAPTISM OF MARGARET COSTELLO**

Margaret Costello, daughter of Kirstie and Christopher, was baptised on Sunday 14 January at Sacred Heart Flitwick. We ask parish to pray for her and her family. We wish Margaret and her family all God's blessings on her journey of faith.

- **LOST PROPERTY**

Lost property will be placed in the box in the porch from Saturday **20 January till Sunday 28 January**. Could you please check for any lost items. Thank you.

- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you would like to join the **reading team** please contact Aggie on parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org. If you would like to join the **live-streaming team** please contact Suzanne Yates on smyates47@gmail.com.

- **SVP VOLUNTEERS**

The SVP is an international Christian group which tackles poverty by direct and practical help to anybody in need. If you would to make a difference and be a part of our SVP team, please contact **Maureen on 01525 873 830**.

- **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.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES (1567 – 1622)

Francis was destined by his father to be a lawyer. For this reason Francis was sent to Padua to study law. After receiving his doctorate, he returned home and, in due time, told his parents he wished to enter the priesthood. Francis was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva and at 35 he became bishop of Geneva. While administering his diocese he continued to preach, hear confessions, and catechise the children. His gentle character was a great asset in winning souls. He practised his own axiom, 'A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar.' Besides his two well-known books, *The Introduction to the Devout Life* and *A Treatise on the Love of God*, he wrote many pamphlets and carried on a vast correspondence. For his writings, he has been named patron of the Catholic Press. In spite of his busy and comparatively short life, he had time to collaborate with another saint, Jane Frances de Chantal, in the work of establishing the Sisters of the Visitation. Saint Francis de Sales is the Patron Saint of authors, journalists and writers.

Adapted from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/>

MASS OFFERINGS

Standing orders are £860.00 weekly

The collection was £283.10

Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee

