Sacred Heart Flitwick

15 March 2026

Laetare Sunday

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

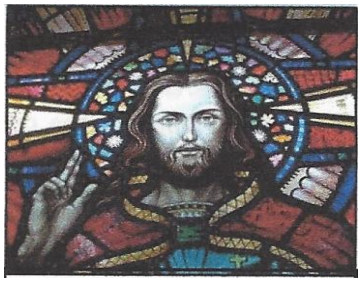
Theme: 'As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world…' John 9: 5

The spirituality of the Lenten season on the Fourth Sunday focuses on the mystery of light. Previously, we reflected on the mystery of water on the Third Sunday of Lent. This Sunday, the Gospel reading concerns the story of the man born blind. The blind man cannot see the light. Jesus did not agree with his disciples that someone's sin caused the man's blindness. His response was: 'he was blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him'. God allowed the man to be born blind. The cure of the blind man gives us insight into the identity of Jesus Christ as the long-anticipated Messiah, the light to the nations and the glory of Israel, but also a sign spoken against (CCC#529). As the light to the nations, Jesus Christ revealed the full truth of God. Because he was full of grace and truth, he came as the light of the world, so that whoever believes in him may not remain in darkness (CCC#2466). As a sign spoken against, the Pharisees were upset that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. For them, Jesus was a sinner. Others disagreed: 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' While the Pharisees aimed to discredit Jesus as the Messiah, the man born blind saw him as a prophet, a man of God or someone from God: 'if this man were not from God, he could not do a thing'. By the end of the story, we realise that it was the Pharisees who were spiritually blind due to their refusal to believe in Jesus Christ. They remained in darkness. We need to be cured of our spiritual blindness to renew our commitment to Jesus Christ. The Catechism teaches that the Church's only true light is that of Christ. Whenever the Church proclaims his Gospel to all creatures, it conveys to everyone the light of Christ that shines visibly (CCC#748). The Catechism reminds us that when we pray before the Tabernacle, the light of Christ's countenance illuminates the eyes of our hearts and guides us to see everything through His truth and compassion for all people (CCC#2715). As we travel through life, we are often confronted with fears, doubts, and dilemmas that cause spiritual blindness. May Jesus Christ be our Shepherd and King, healing our blindness and illuminating our path. May the Holy Spirit make the Church of Christ a welcoming light for all humanity.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR MARCH — PENITENTS AND WANDERERS, CANDIDATES FOR SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 14 March	5.00 pm	Tomasz Kapitan, 1st Anniversary, RIP
Sunday 15 March	9.00 am	Francy Sanchez Lewis, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday 15 March	11.00 am	In Thanksgiving and for the Intentions of Bethany Hills
Tuesday 17 March	9.30 am	Falakiko, Manusiu Mafi and Tom and Bernadette Smith, RIP *St Patricks, Bishop, Patron of Ireland*
Wednesday 18 March	9.30 am	In Thanksgiving and for the Private Intentions of the Lewis, Tong and Yong Families
Thursday 19 March	9.30 am	Anna Maguire, RIP *St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary* *24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration*
Friday 20 March	10.00 am	Special Intentions *Stations of the Cross at 9.30 am*



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PRAYER LINE
Please ring 01525 643 186.

SVP
Members provide help to anyone in need. Please call Ann on 01462 239 268

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

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

We shall be meeting on **13 and 27 March after 10.00 am Mass.** Ring Sue Barley 01525 634186 for information.

SOUP FOR SUDAN

The SVP will once again be serving a simple Lenten meal of soup and bread **on Tuesday 24 March at 12.00 pm** in support of the SVP in South Sudan who help to feed and support their people, 80% of whom live below the national poverty line. Please come along to the Canon Denis Room for good food and good company. **All donations will go to South Sudan SVP for their work.**

CTAF RECONCILIATION SERVICE AT SACRED HEART FLITWICK

You are warmly invited to an ecumenical service to reflect on life's journey with opportunity for individual prayer and **the sacrament of reconciliation on Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 7.30 pm** at Sacred Heart Flitwick.

24-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

We will begin 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday 19 March, following the 9.30am Mass. Please sign up for a specific time slot using the form available in the porch, or you are warmly invited to come and pray.

TEA, COFFEE AND CHAT

As part of our welcoming church, we are having tea and coffee after Friday Mass, once a month. We would love to see you. Perhaps invite a friend? So please join us on **20 March.** For those who like a little company and chat, and the cake is back! All welcome.

COME AND SEE

We will meet **on Tuesday17 March at 7.30pm in the Parish Room.** Please join us for prayer.

EASTER RAFFLE

Easter raffle tickets can be bought after each **Mass from 14 and 15 March.** Proceeds will go to support **youth activities** in our parish. **The raffle will be drawn during Good Friday Children's Liturgy.**

MINI VINNIES COFFEE MORNING

Mini Vinnies will be hosting a special coffee morning in Canon Denis room after **11.00 am Mass on Sunday 15 March**. All are welcome.

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD

Thank you for your generous support this Family Fast Day – your kindness is helping families like Shorai's in Zimbabwe and Rejoice's in South Sudan grow food, even in the face of drought and floods. You have shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent – fasting, praying and giving so families can put food on the table.

OTHER NOTICES

LIVE SIMPLY MARCH – RAISING AWEARENESS OF FAIRTRADE

I promise to find out more about Fairtrade and encourage my family to buy Fairtrade products. Reflection: you are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor person, but you are giving them back what is theirs. (St Ambrose)

GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT – WE DARE TO ASK

Read and Reflect on the Scriptures Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.' And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

Taken from the booklet We Dare to As

Easter Triduum	
Maundy Thursday **2 April**	Morning Prayers (Lauds) at 9.00 am. **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper** at **8.00 pm.** Eucharistic Adoration till 10.00 pm
Good Friday **3 April**	Morning Prayers (Lauds) at 9.00 am. Walk of Witness in Ampthill at 10.00 am **The Stations of the Cross at 2.15 pm.** **The Good Friday service at 3.00 pm followed by Divine Mercy**
Easter Vigil **4 April**	Morning Prayers (Lauds) at 9.00 am followed by Divine Mercy **Vigil Mass is at 8.30 pm.**
Easter Sunday **5 April**	**Mass will at 9.00 am and 11.00 am (Family Mass – live-streamed).**



MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £333.60
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee