Sacred Heart Flitwick

5th Sunday of Lent

22 March 2026

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

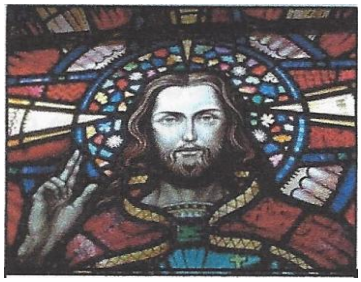
Theme: Jesus said to Martha, I am the resurrection and the life.

Today's Gospel reading recalls one of Jesus' miracles, the healing of the man born blind. This confirms the continuity of the theme of Sunday readings in the season of Lent. Could not he who opened the blind man's eyes also have kept this man from dying? (John 11:37). On the fifth Sunday of Lent, we reflect on the gift of life, eternal life in Jesus Christ. At the home of Martha and Mary, Jesus reveals himself as the resurrection and the life. This is an affirmative statement of Christ's divinity. When Martha meets Jesus, she expresses the common expectation. The one who loves Lazarus and is renowned for his miracles should have been able to heal him: 'he opened the eyes of the blind man; could he not have prevented this man's death?' Martha then shows her belief in the future resurrection of the dead. Jesus promises her the realisation of the resurrection, which begins here and now for those who believe in him. In the raising of Lazarus, Christ showed not only that he has the power to raise the dead to life but also that he himself is the resurrection and the life. This dramatic occurrence is a sign of his future resurrection and the general resurrection, which we profess and will take place on the last day. The Catechism teaches that Jesus links faith in the resurrection to his own person: 'I am the resurrection and the life.' It is Jesus himself who, on the last day, will raise up those who have believed in him, who have eaten his body and drunk his blood (CCC#994). Our hope for resurrection and eternal life hinges entirely upon Christ's ersurrection and his redemption. However, the resurrection of Lazarus is qualitatively different from the resurrection on the last day or Christ's own resurrection. Lazarus was brought back to his former life before his death, and, therefore, he would experience physical death once again. The resurrection of Lazarus is a return to earthly life, but Christ's resurrection was not a return to earthly life; he passed from the state of death to another life beyond time and space (CCC#646). The Christian belief in the resurrection has always met with incomprehension and opposition since the beginning of the faith, but it is commonly accepted that the human person's life will continue in a spiritual form after death. But how can we believe that this body, so clearly mortal, could rise to everlasting life? As creatures of God and Christians, we owe our physical existence to him. Without God, we are dead and have no real life. To be a witness to Christ is to be a witness to his resurrection (CCC#995). During the celebration of the Mass, we shall encounter life, peace, and the power of Christ. May these divine gifts inspire us in our earthly life as we relate with one another.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 21 March	5.00 pm	Margaret and Patrick Gibbons, Anniversary, RIP
Sunday 22 March	9.00 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 22 March	11.00 am	William Tiernan, RIP
Tuesday 24 March	**9.30 am**	Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday 24 March	**7.30 pm**	*Ecumenical Reconciliation Service* *Private Confession*
Wednesday 25 March	9.30 am	Rick Frank and Doreen Goodman, RIP *The Annunciation of the Lord*
Thursday 26 March	9.30 am	**No Mass**
Friday 27 March	10.00 am	In Thanksgiving and Private Intentions of the Lewis Family



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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 **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.

EASTER RAFFLE

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

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE FOR CHILDREN

On Good Friday at 3.00 pm, children will have the opportunity to take part in their own liturgy with the catechists in the Canon Denis Room. Places must be booked in advance. Booking forms are available in the porch. **Please complete the form (available from Kath) and return it by 29 March**. On Good Friday at 3.00 pm, children will have the opportunity to take part in their own liturgy with the catechists in the Canon Denis Room. Places must be booked in advance. Booking forms are available in the porch. Please complete the form and return it for the attention of Kath Greenwood.

CHURCH CLEANING BEFORE EASTER



We warmly invite you to join us in preparing our church for Easter celebrations. Your support makes a real difference in keeping our parish vibrant and welcoming. Our dedicated cleaning team works throughout the year to maintain our church, and we are grateful for those who have kindly lent a hand in past. At Easter and Christmas, we come together for a spring clean and this year we'd love to see even more parishioners take part. Everyone's efforts, big or small, are invaluable. Please join us for our Easter cleaning event **on Wednesday 1 April at 7.00 pm.** All cleaning supplies will be provided. With ten people giving just 20 minutes, we can achieve so much together. Your help ensures our church remains a beautiful space for the Glory of God. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. We look forward to seeing you there!

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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 – CHOOSING A LIFE IN CHRIST

Read and Reflect on the Scriptures Luke 22: 54 - 62

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' And a little later someone else saw him and said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not.' And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, 'Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about.' And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly. *Taken from the booklet We Dare to Ask*

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 £283.00
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee