Sacred Heart Flitwick

3rd Sunday of Lent

8 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

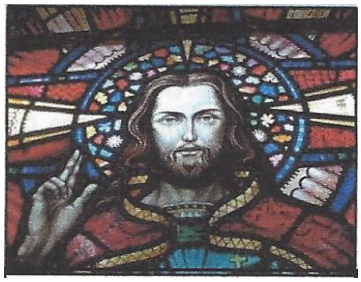
Theme: The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water…

On the third Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to reflect on water, one of the mysteries of Easter, after two Sundays of desert temptation and transfiguration on the mountain. In his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus refers to himself as the source of living water. He said to the woman, ;Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.' Christ was referring to the life-giving water of the Holy Spirit and the water of Baptism, which will bestow true happiness. The catechism teaches that the sacrament of baptism is called God's most beautiful and magnificent gift. We are reminded that the rite of baptism has various stages that bestow various gifts. The name baptism is used because personal sin is buried in the water. It is called a gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own. It is called grace because it is given even to the guilty. It is called anointing since it is priestly and royal, as we are those anointed. It is an action of enlightenment because it radiates light through the catechetical instructions received before the celebration. Baptism involves clothing since it veils our shame, and it also involves a bath because it washes (CCC#1216). In Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan, he does not reveal the Holy Spirit fully until he himself has been glorified through his death and resurrection. Nevertheless, by alluding to living water, Jesus brings our minds to the action of the Holy Spirit (CCC#728). The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth and will glorify Christ. He will prove the world wrong about sin, righteousness and judgment (CCC#729). Eventually, the Samaritan woman accepted her brokenness, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, she became very bold, leaving her water jar to proclaim the Gospel she had heard. Our baptism is a bath of water in which the 'imperishable seed' of the Word of God produces its life-giving effect. Saint Augustine says of baptism, the word is brought to the material element, and it becomes a sacrament (CCC#1228). As we anticipate the renewal of our baptismal promises, we must prepare our minds and hearts by responding to the invitation of Jesus, the source of living water. Among the 'wellspring' of prayer where we can draw water are the Eucharist, Scripture, and the sacrament of reconciliation, as well as the practice of the theological virtues. May we come to Christ when we are burdened, for he is the spring of living water who refreshes all who thirst.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 7 March	5.00 pm	Brendan McManuce, RIP *Eucharistic Adoration at 4.00 pm*
Sunday 8 March	9.00 am	Thanksgiving and Repose of the Souls of Philomena and Francis Tong, RIP
Sunday 8 March	11.00 am	Attracta Ivers, RIP
Tuesday 10 March	10.45 am	Requiem Mass for Andrew Joseph Kerins, RIP
Wednesday 11 March	9.30 am	Falakiko, Manusiu Mafi and Tom and Bernadette Smith, RIP
Thursday 12 March	9.30 am	Mariafe Calivoso, RIP
Friday 13 March	10.00 am	Kevin Sweeney, 3rd Anniversary, RIP *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.

LENTEN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

You are warmly invited to **Eucharistic Adoration led by the youth of our parish**. We will gather on **Saturday 7 March at 4.00 pm, before the evening Mass. Please join us in prayer.**

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 Tuesday 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.**

ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL – TALENT SHOW

St Thomas More Secondary School presents 'Tommy's Got Talent' **on Wednesday 11 March**. The show starts at 7.00 pm Tickets £5. A night of singing, dancing, stand-up comedy and more!

A DIOCESAN MISSION CONFERENCE

Mission Northampton invites all those from across the diocese who have a heart for sharing the Gospel with others to come along to this day from **10.30 am until 4.00 pm on Saturday 14 March 2026 in Leighton Buzzard**. Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. The event is free. However, please register your details to confirm your place.
https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/mission-conference-2026/

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)

ANDREW JOSEPH KERINS, RIP

We are sad to announce the passing of our parishioner, Andrew Joseph Kerins. Please remember Andrew in your prayers. Our sympathy goes to his family and friends.

JESUS THE BRIDGE OF MERCY – WE DARE TO ASK

Read and Reflect on the Scriptures Romans 6:1-6

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died, he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Taken from the booklet We Dare to Ask

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £281.30
CAFOD collection was £872.70
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee