Sacred Heart Flitwick

28 Sunday in Ordinary Time,

11 October 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

Prisoners' Sunday

Theme: 'Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find'. On Prisoners' Sunday, 11 October 2026, the Catholic Church is invited to remember in prayer everyone affected by imprisonment: people in prison, their children and families, those who have left prison and all who work in the criminal justice system. Jesus tells us: 'I was in prison, and you visited me.' (Matthew 25:36). This Prisoners' Sunday we are invited to put our faith into action. Pray for prisoners and their families, share Pact's (national charity that supports prisons) message with your parish, and consider supporting Pact's work. Together, we can help people affected by imprisonment find hope, maintain family bonds, and take steps towards a better future.

The Gospel reading reminds us of a kingdom theme: the celebration of a wedding banquet. In this parable, a king solemnly invites us to his son's wedding banquet. Remember that a wedding banquet is likely a week-long event. This parable is meant to demonstrate the blissful joy a person experiences when fully united to Jesus Christ. The image of a wedding feast conjures up thoughts of joy and festivity. The invitation to the banquet is an invitation to a personal relationship. Refusing to participate in the marriage is not merely refusing to eat; it is refusing to have anything to do with the king or the Kingdom. It is puzzling that the king will cast out a guest who appears at the feast without the wedding garment. It is quite clear that those people were gathered from the streets and taken in were 'good and bad'. The king asks how this fellow could enter without the wedding garment. But since all the other guests were also from the streets, how did they all not have wedding garments?

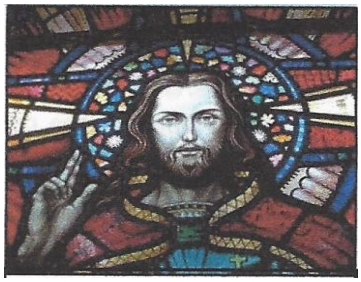
Naturally, those who are invited to this feast are the Jews, the inhabitants of the city. But since these refused the invitation and ended up killing the servants of God sent to them, their places were occupied by those from the street. Jesus and the presence of the kingdom in this world are secretly at the heart of the parables. One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. For those who stay 'outside', everything remains enigmatic (CCC£546). The parable's central question is how prepared you are to accept God's invitation. The Eucharist is the sacred banquet in which Christ is received as food, the memory of his passion is renewed, the soul is filled with graceand we are given a pledge of the life to come (CCC#1402). May Communion fill us with every grace and heavenly blessing.

This October, Pope Leo XIV invites us to pray for mental health ministry, asking that it may become established throughout the Church and help overcome the stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with mental illness.

CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR OCTOBER — PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES; THANKSGIVING FOR THE HARVEST AND HUMAN WORK

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 10 Oct.	5.00 pm	David Singleton, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday 11 Oct.	9.00 am	Thanksgiving and Repose of Souls of Philomena and Francis Tong, RIP
Sunday 11 Oct.	11.00 am	Margaret Kosh, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday 13 Oct.	7.00 pm	No Mass *St Edward the Confessor*
Wednesday 14 Oct.	9.30 am	Rosary / No Mass
Thursday 15 Oct.	9.30 am	Rosary and Liturgy of the Word
Friday 16 Oct	10.00 am	Special Intention *St Hedwig, Religious, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin*



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Luton – Fr. Ugo Nnaji
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PRAYER LINE
Please ring 01525 643186.

SVP
Members provide help to anyone in need. Please call Ann on 01462 239268

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

PILGRIMAGE TO ST FRANCIS IN SHEFFORD

As we celebrate the Year of St Francis, we are planning a parish pilgrimage **to St Francis, Shefford, on Saturday 17 October,** together with the parish of Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard. If you are interested in joining this pilgrimage, please email the parish secretary for further details. For information about other services and events taking place across our deanery, please see the noticeboard.

ROSARY IN OCTOBER

October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, and this year Pope Leo XIV has invited Christians to pray the Rosary throughout the month, particularly for peace and an end to war. We will pray the Rosary 30 minutes before all Masses, where possible. We warmly invite everyone to join us in this beautiful prayer.

PRISONERS' SUNDAY

This Sunday, the Church marks Prisoners' Sunday, a day to pray for people in prison, their families and children, victims and survivors of crime, and all those working within the criminal justice system. The Gospel reminds us: 'I was in prison and you came to me'. Prisoners' Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on how we can put these words into action, recognising the dignity of every person and the possibility of redemption and a fresh start.

MISSIO SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes – available in the porch, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a direct debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

BEDFORDSHIRE PASTORAL AREA NEWS – 2027 JACOBEAN HOLY YEAR AND PILGRIMAGE

It is a special year for Catholics around the world as Santiago de Compostela in Spain celebrates a Jacobean, or Compostelan, Holy Year. The year is known as the Xacobeo and occurs when the feast of St James the Apostle is celebrated on 25 July. The Bedfordshire Pastoral Area is proposing to run a pilgrimage **to Santiago de Compostela in Sept/Oct 2027**. Any parishioners interested in joining the pilgrimage should contact **Deacon Crispin on deaconcrispin.walklinglea@northamptondiocese.org** for more information. **Pilgrims will need to be independent and capable of walking 115 km over six days, carrying their own pack. Accommodation will be in shared dormitories in backpacker hostels and the estimated cost of the pilgrimage is £550 per person.**

OTHER NOTICES

LIVE SIMPLY OCTOBER

This month I will live simply by praying. I promise to pray for all the people who do not have a safe place to sleep or enough to eat this Harvest. Reflection: God calls us to work together to look after our world and share what we have so that everyone has what they need. Building a better world is not just about having more money; it is about respecting yourself and others and becoming the best person you can be.

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD

A huge thank you to everyone who generously donated to CAFOD Fast Day. Together, we raised an amazing £925.

DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

It can be accessed through this link https://northamptondiocese.org/news/

DIOCESEN SAFEGUARDING LINK

Here is the link to the latest diocesan **safeguarding policy** https://northamptondiocese.org/safeguarding/

PARKING – HEALTH AND SAFETY





Apart from the repainted white and yellow lines in the car park you will **notice a new yellow box on the left-hand side near the church. This is to ensure there is a clear fire escape from the path so please do not park in this box**. You will also notice that the parking rows have been numbered 1-3 and there is a notice on the tree at the car park entrance asking **that row 1 is filled up before row 2. The reason is that if spaces are left in row 1 when row 2 is full then people have to reverse into the row 1 spaces when people are walking through the car park to the church**. **This is a hazard that can be avoided so please follow the guidance. This applies to weekdays as well as weekends as weekday Mass is getting busier.**

FR. JERRY AWAY

Fr. Jerry will be away from 12 till 26 October. **Please check the newsletter for Masses during the week.**

ROAD CLOSURE – GAS WORKS

Vicarage Hill will be temporarily closed from 19 October till 1 December to through traffic. There will be still some access to homes and businesses using the signed diversion route although there may be short periods when access is limited.

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £232.
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee