Sacred Heart Flitwick

15 Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 July 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: 'And Jesus told them many in parables…'

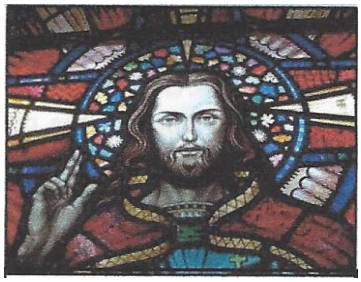
The Gospel reading for this weekend and the coming weeks focuses on Jesus' teaching through parables. Like any good teacher, Jesus uses pictures or parables to teach complex ideas about the kingdom of heaven. The parable of the sower is a rather sad one because most of the seeds failed to take root. In the parable of the sower, the key elements are the seed and the different soils. The emphasis falls on the condition of the soil and its effects on the seed. The kinds of soil depict different responses to Jesus' words. The resistant response is the type of soil on the walk path. The seed that falls along the path did not grow. Then we have the lukewarm response, which is the soil on the rocky area. The seed that falls on patches of rock with shallow soil struggled to grow. The distracted response is the type of soil with thorns. The seed that falls among thorns was choked. The productive response is the soil, which provides a perfect environment. The seed that falls on good soil is an unencumbered soil that allows it to grow and produces grain. In essence, we are reminded that amidst the loss, there is an abundant harvest; despite all obstacles, the message of the kingdom achieves its purpose. The good soil alone shows what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus; the way one lives one's life shows how one has really understood and received the message of the kingdom.

In fact, Jesus had so many things to say about the mystery of the kingdom of God, but he spoke to them in parables. Jesus' invitation to his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching, but it demands a radical choice; therefore, to gain the kingdom, one must give everything. The Catechism teaches that parables are like a mirror for people, in which human endeavour can be compared to hard soil or good soil for the seed. Will you be hard soil or good soil for the word? 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, in order to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. For those who stay outside, everything remains enigmatic (CCC #546). The message of the Gospel gives hope to all who listen. This is because the human person is granted the grace to participate in the light and power of the divine Spirit. (CCC #1904). As we celebrate the Eucharist and listen to the readings, what is your response to God's word?

CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR JULY — SEAFARERS, EUROPE

MASS INTENTIONS

Friday 10 July	7.00 pm	Mass for the Conferring of Confirmation
Saturday 11 July	10.30 am	Baptism of Leo Thomas
Saturday 11 July	5.00 pm	John and Johanna Ryan and the Deceased Family Members, RIP
Sunday 12 July	9.00 am	Thanksgiving and Private Intentions of the Lewis Family
Sunday 12 July	11.00 am	Intentions of Klara on Her Birthday *Baptism of Aoife Walland*
Tuesday 14 July	7.00 pm	Robert Hills, RIP
Wednesday 15 July	9.30 am	Edward and Louise Smith RIP and the Deceased Family Members
Thursday 16 July	9.30 am	Private Intentions *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*
Friday 17 July	10.00 am	Intentions of Joey Hills on His Birthday



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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

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

We shall be meeting on **24 July after 10.00 am Mass.** Ring Sue Barley 01525 634186 for information. **There will be no meetings in August.**

TEA, COFFEE AND CHAT

You are welcome to join us for tea, coffee and chat after Mass on **17 July.**

STELLA MARIS COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection after all Masses on **11 and 12 July in support of Stella Maris**, the Catholic charity that provides pastoral care and practical support to seafarers and fishers around the world.

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 17 October, together with the parish of Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard. If you are interested in joining this pilgrimage, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the porch. This will help us gauge numbers and make the necessary arrangements. Further details will be available in September.

OTHER NOTICES

LIVE SIMPLY JULY – NOT WASTING WATER

I promise to help the environment by having a shower instead of a bath and turning the tap off when I clean my teeth.
Reflection: Everything we have now is thanks to people who lived before us. We must work together to look after the world for the children who are born after us. Adapted from Pope Paul VI *Populorum Progressio.*

HELP NEEDED

One of our parishioners is looking for a 3-bedroom house to rent. Please contact parish.sacredheart@northamptondiocese.org if you are able to help. Thank you.

Pleases see the diocesan news board for the latest updates.

BIG THANK YOU!!!



A big thank you to our Parish Pastoral Council, whose hard work, planning and dedication made our wonderful Parish Day on 5 July possible. Their vision and organisation brought our parish family together for a truly enjoyable and memorable day of friendship, fun and fellowship. Our sincere thanks also go to the many volunteers who generously gave their time and talents. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and clear away, manned the stalls, donated prizes for the tombola, baked delicious cakes, prepared sandwiches, served tea and coffee and to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the day. Every act of kindness and generosity was greatly appreciated. Finally, thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event. It was wonderful to see so many members of our parish enjoying one another's company and celebrating our community together. We all had a wonderful time!

YOU ARE INVITED TO ALPHA AT SACRED HEART FLITWICK

We are excited to share that from **September 2026** our parish will begin running the Alpha Course, a series exploring the Christian faith in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Whether you are a regular member of our parish, have been away from the Church for a while, are new to Christianity, Catholic or non-Catholic, or simply curious, you are very welcome. Each session includes **a meal, a short talk, and informal discussion, where you can ask questions, share your thoughts or simply listen. The topics are explored through a film. Bring your family, friends or neighbours along.**

The course will be held in our church and led by our parishioners Helen Burgess and Dee Brady. It takes place on Mondays at 7.00 pm, beginning 14 September.

Topics

- 14 Sept: Is there more to life than this?
- 21 Sept: Who is Jesus?
- 28 Sept: Why did Jesus die?
- 5 Oct: How can I have faith?
- 12 Oct: Why and how do I pray?
- 19 Oct: Why and how should I read the Bible?
- 2 Nov: How does God guide us?
- 7 Nov (Saturday): Holy Spirit Away Day
- 9 Nov: What about church?

We are also looking for volunteers to help run the course. If you would like to take part or help, please email: parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £231.10
Tombola: £100
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee