Sacred Heart Flitwick

13 September 2026

24 Sunday in Ordinary Time

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: So, also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.

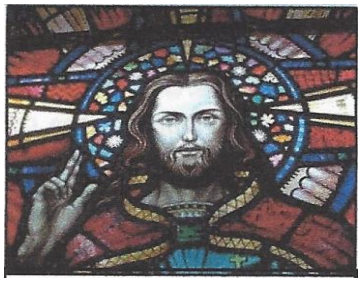
The Gospel reading recounts a parable about forgiveness and the compassionate Master. This is traditionally called the parable of the merciless servant, which crowns the Lord's teaching on ecclesial communion and ends with these words: 'So, also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. The catechism teaches that it is in the depths of the heart that everything is bound and loosed'. It is not in our power to avoid feeling an offence or to forget it, but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies memory by transforming hurt into intercession (CCC#2843). The parable exemplifies the kind of forgiveness Christ expects from his followers. Although it is difficult to forget an injury, our forgiveness and prayers for that person open the way for a great showing of grace and strength. The parable emphasises the great mercy of Christ and the debt of sin he has forgiven. That is ten thousand talents. The sum in this parable was perhaps greatly exaggerated precisely to emphasise the vast difference between the two debts. We must, in turn, extend this mercy to others. Jesus invites us to forgive those who sin against us without limit, just as our heavenly Father forgives our many sins. Forgiveness is one of Christianity's most difficult and painful virtues. The conversation about forgiveness also reminds us how easily we can be hurt, made to feel small, left out, or even laughed at. Can we forgive the one who causes us so much pain? Can we forgive the one who is bent on destroying our lives? 'Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times'. The basis of forgiveness is the appreciation of what God has done for humanity in his Son, who died on the cross for our sins. In our personal prayer of the Our Father, there is a petition that expects us to forgive those who trespass against us before our sins may be forgiven. Our petition will not be heard unless we first meet a strict requirement. Our petition looks to the future, but our response must come first, for the two parts are joined by the word 'as' (CCC#2838). My prayers and thoughts are with all who are in pain and hurt, who feel resentful and vengeful, and who bear anger towards those who sin against us. May the crucified Lord grant us the courage to forgive those who sin against us so that we may also receive the Lord's forgiveness. 'And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother or sister from your heart'.

Pope Leo's commendation prayer during the Season of Creation from 1 September until 4 October [St Francis of Assisi]. 'They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks' (Is 2:4) is the theme of Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, published in the Bulletin of the Holy See. During this season of Creation, we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour, and the earth we share, and to be ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER — FOR THE CARE OF CREATION, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12 Sept.	5.00 pm	Special Intentions
Sunday 13 Sept.	9.00 am	Catherine McGrath, RIP
Sunday 13 Sept.	11.00 am	Liam Spillane, Anniversary, RIP
Monday 14 Sept.	**9.30 am**	People of the Parish *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*
Tuesday 15 Sept.	**9.30 am**	Deceased Family Members of the Foong and Tong Families *Our Lady of Sorrows*
Wednesday 16 Sept.	9.30 am	Intentions of Joseph *Ss Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs*
Thursday 17 Sept.	9.30 am	Intentions of Fr. Prasad Kasireddy on His 23rd Anniversary of Ordination *St Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin, Doctor of the Church*
Friday 18 Sept.	10.00 am	Maggie Kosh, Recently Deceased, RIP *Mass for the Care of Creation*



PRIEST IN CHARGE
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SECRETARY
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SAFEGUARDING
Paula Bates
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HOSPITAL CONTACTS
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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

PARISH RETREAT

Our parish retreat will take place on Saturday 19 September, at Buckden Towers. The theme is Exploring the Psalms. If you would like to attend, please complete a form available in church and **return it to Suzanne or email Aggie or Suzanne directly as soon as possible.**

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on 14 September, honours the Cross of Christ as a sign of God's love, salvation and victory. **Mass will be celebrated on Monday, 14 September at 9.30 am.**

PPC MEETING

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet **on Tuesday, 15 September, at 6.30 pm.** Please note that there will be no evening Mass on that day. Instead, **Mass will be celebrated at 9.30 am**. If you have any suggestions, comments or matters you would like the PPC to consider, please place them in the suggestion box in the porch. Thank you for your continued support and contribution to our parish community.

MASS FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

On Friday, 18 September at 10.00 am, we will celebrate a special Mass for the Care of Creation. This Mass comes during the 10th anniversary year of the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. Pope Leo XIV has approved for use the Missa pro custodia creationis – *the Mass for the Care of Creation* – providing a special opportunity for us to pray for our common home and to reflect on our responsibility to care for God's creation.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held after the 10.00 am Mass on Friday 25 September. We would be grateful for **donations of cakes, tombola items and for volunteers to help on the day.** If you can help, please email the parish secretary. **Raffle tickets will be available to purchase after the weekend Masses on 19 and 20 of September. There are some lovely hamper baskets to be won, so don't miss out!**

SVP APPEAL

The weekend **12 and 13 September** will see the annual parish SVP appeal. The money raised at this appeal is used to help those who come to the SVP for help with problems during the year, and to support their work overseas – all of which will be described in the report. Please be as generous as you can to support the SVP, both in prayer and financial giving. Thanks in advance.

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 email parish secretary. We will have nine days of Novena prayers in preparation for the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. **The Novena will begin on 25 September and conclude on 3 October and will take place before Mass each day.**

TEA, COFFEE AND CHAT

We will be meeting on **18 September, 16 October and 20 November after 10.00 am Mass.** Everyone is welcome!

OTHER NOTICES

LIVE SIMPLY SEPTEMBER

I promise, this month I will live simply by making friends. I promise to make the effort to get to know new people and remember to tell my old friends how much I like them! Reflection: peace means more than not having wars. Peace is created every day by doing a little bit to make the world how God wanted. Adapted from Pope Paul VI *Populorum Progressio* Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God Matthew 5:9

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN 2027

If you have a child who will be in Year 3 or above this September, and you would like them to prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, please email Kath Greenwood on **catechist.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org** to register your interest. **Please respond by the end of September.**

RCIA 2027

If you are an adult interested in receiving the sacraments of initiation, that is, baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation, please contact the parish secretary by the end of September for further information.

ALPHA

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. It takes place on Mondays at 7.00 pm, beginning 14 September. If you would like to take part, please email: parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org

DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

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

DAVID SINGLETON, RIP

We are saddened to announce the passing of our parishioner, David. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones at this difficult time. May he rest in peace. Amen.

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £385.40
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee