Sacred Heart Flitwick

25 Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 September 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, 'I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you'

The Gospel reading offers us a catechesis on God's love as the motive for choosing us among all peoples as a special possession. This is evident throughout history and understood by the prophets of Israel: out of love, God never ceased saving them and pardoning their unfaithfulness and sins (CCC#218). God's generous love does not discriminate between those who came at the eleventh hour and those who came early in the morning. God's blessings are tailored to each person's needs. In fact, God's love will overcome even the worst infidelities and extend to his most precious gift (CCC#219). This is the love that inspires the parable in this Gospel reading. The parable illustrates that God's goodness and mercy are the same for those who respond to his call at the 'eleventh hour'. This gesture of love cannot be measured by any human standard. It is incalculable and beyond human reckoning. This attitude challenges the prevalent belief that God owes us salvation after we have done our 'good works'; it is like a child who thinks his father 'owes' him money for every job done. In the same vein, God owes salvation to no one. None of us deserves anything from God; God is not indebted to anyone for any good thing done. Our good works are not a means of earning salvation but rather a response to God's grace and his invitation to do his will. Everything we have and receive from God is by God's grace. Life and salvation are a gift graciously bestowed on us. The master in the parable of the labourers in the vineyard was not wicked to those hired first, but generous to those hired last.

This weekend, the universal Church also celebrates Home Mission Sunday. Each year, it is observed on the third Sunday in September. The celebration focuses on proclaiming the unique message of the Gospel, which brings joy to all who receive it with an open heart. On Home Mission Sunday, the bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful of our countries to seek ways to do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Support can be financial as well.

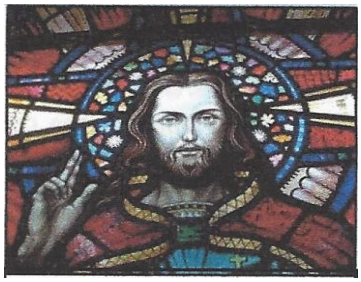
May the celebration unite our minds and souls to the Gospel of Christ.

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 19 Sept.	5.00 pm	In Thanksgiving and for the Blessings Received
Sunday 20 Sept.	9.00 am	Maggie Kosh, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday 20 Sept.	11.00 am	Maggie Kosh, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday 22 Sept.	7.00 pm	Intentions of Michael, Kevin, Dennis and Mary Daley
Wednesday 23 Sept.	9.30 am	Mary Gardener and Michael Fahey Anniversary, RIP *St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest*
Thursday 24 Sept.	9.30 am	Intentions of Elizabeth Body Who Is Ill *Our Lady of Walsingham*
Friday 25 Sept.	10.00 am	Maggie Kosh, Recently Deceased, RIP **Feast Day Mass for the SVP**



PRIEST IN CHARGE
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SECRETARY
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SAFEGUARDING
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HOSPITAL CONTACTS
Bedford - Deacon Tony Quinlan 01234 950453
tonyquinlan15@gmail.com
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

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 on the day. Please bring them before Mass to the Canon Denis Room. We are kindly asking you not to use any nuts, and display the ingredients.** If you can help, please email the parish secretary. **Raffle tickets will be available to purchase this weekend before and after Mass. There are some lovely hamper baskets to be won, so don't miss out!**

NOVENA TO ST FRANCIS

As part of our celebration of the Year of St Francis, we will begin praying **a Novena to St Francis on 25 September**, as we prepare spiritually for our pilgrimage to Shefford on 18 October. We invite everyone to join us in these nine days of prayer, asking for the intercession of St Francis and seeking to grow in his spirit of faith, humility, simplicity, peace and love for all of God's creation.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

It is on Friday 2 October. Envelopes are available in the porch. Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tyla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at **cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.**

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.**

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. **You can also use the QR code to register your child. 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.

HOLY WATER

It is now available in the porch in small bottles. If possible, the donation can be made in the repository.

DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

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

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY

We celebrate Home Mission Sunday each year on the Third Sunday in September. We proclaim the unique message of the Gospel that brings joy to all people who receive it with an open heart www.cbcew.org.uk/home-mission-sunday

200 CLUB SEPTEMBER

1st - Anita Linda, 2nd - Myriam Rincon, 3rd - Jane Crow. Congratulations to the winners!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We are delighted to share that our recent SVP collection raised an incredible £1238.12. Your kindness and generosity make a real difference to those in need and we are truly grateful for your continued support.

CAR PARK NOTICE

Please note that the church **car park will be closed on Monday 20 September while the parking lines are being repainted**. The Finance Committee are undertaking two major projects to improve the church and its surroundings. We are looking to reinstate the white and yellow in the car park. This will improve both the look of the area and make parking easier for everyone. A full deep cleaning of the church carpets is also planned over the next couple of weeks. The parish is fortunate to have reserved funds available from the Stations of the Cross appeal and we feel that it is appropriate for these funds to be used to cover the cost of these worthwhile projects. We sincerely hope that parishioners will agree with our proposition.

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £289.40
The SVP collection was £1238.12
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee