Sacred Heart Flitwick

21 Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 August 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: 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father who is in heaven'

The Gospel reading reminds us of the encounter between Jesus and Simon Peter. The exchange led to a deeper revelation of each other's identity. Peter identified Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, and Jesus identified Simon, son of Bar-Jonah, as Peter, the rock on which he will build his Church. God's incomprehensible wisdom reveals Jesus Christ's identity to Peter. Peter's confession marks a turning point in Jesus' ministry. In fact, Simon Peter was the first of the Apostles in Matthew's Gospel to verbally acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. This is an indispensable truth of the faith revealed to him by the Father through the Holy Spirit. The catechism teaches that, through the Father's revelation, Peter confessed, 'You are the Christ, Son of the living God.' Our Lord then declared to him, 'You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it…' Christ, the living stone, thus assures his Church, built on Peter, of victory over the powers of death. Because of the faith he confessed, Peter will remain the unshakeable rock of the Church, the new assembly of the people of God (Catechism #552). Jesus then invests Peter, together with the other disciples, with considerable authority. What the apostles bind and loosen on earth ratifies the prior decision in heaven. Peter and the other disciples share in God's ultimate authority to bind and loose. The Church teaches that 'the powers of the keys' designates the authority to govern the house of God, which is the Church. The power to 'bind and loose' connects to the authority to absolve sins, pronounce doctrinal judgments, and make disciplinary decisions in the Church (Catechism #553). His mission will be to instruct the other disciples and strengthen them in understanding the implications of Christ's identity and what lies ahead. Peter answers Jesus' second question about the emphasis of his messiahship in the world by declaring himself the Son of the Living God. As you prepare to encounter our blessed Lord at the Mass, we should not be afraid to ask questions or share our thoughts as we bring our hopes and concerns to God in prayer.

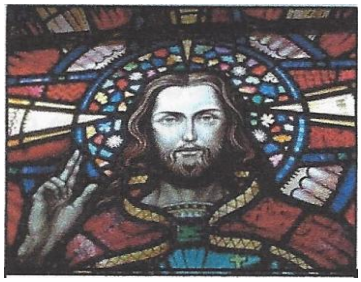
POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST

FOR EVANGELISATION IN THE CITY - LET US PRAY THAT IN LARGE CITIES OFTEN MARKED BY ANONYMITY AND LONELINESS, WE FIND NEW WAYS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL, DISCOVERING CREATIVE PATHS TO BUILD COMMUNITY.

CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR AUGUST — FOR EUROPE AND FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 22 August	5.00 pm	Intentions of Margaret Short, Who Is Unwell
Sunday 23 August	9.00 am	Patrick 'Patsy' Hackett, Anniversary, RIP
Sunday 23 August	11.00 am	Maggie Kosh, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday 25 August	7.00 pm	Deceased Family Members of the Foong and Tong Families, RIP
Wednesday 26 August	9.30 am	Thomas Fahey, Anthony Fahey, Patrick Appleford, RIP *Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest*
Thursday 27 August	9.30 am	Private Intentions *St Monica*
Friday 28 August	10.00 am	Bob and Margaret Francis, Diamond Wedding Anniversary *St Augustine of Hippo, Doctor of the Church*



PRIEST IN CHARGE
Father Jerry Manomey
frjerry.manomey@northamptondiocese.org
Contact: 01525 715109

SECRETARY
Aggie Keeble
parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK
www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk
flitwick.sacred.heart

SAFEGUARDING
Paula Bates
safeguarding.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org

HOSPITAL CONTACTS
Bedford - Deacon Tony Quinlan 01234 950453
tonyquinlan15@gmail.com
Luton – Fr. Ugo Nnaji
frugo.nnaji@northamptondiocese.org

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 Suzanne directly.

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 and for volunteers to help on the day or with selling tickets**. If you can help, please email **parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no children's liturgy in August. We will resume on 13 September.

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 AUGUST

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.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our parish wouldn't be able to run without the kindness and support of our volunteers. We are currently looking for help with: church cleaning, mowing the grass, live - streaming Saturday Masses. All roles are on a rota and if you can't make your allocated time, you can simply swap with someone else. There's no pressure — any help you can offer is greatly appreciated If you're interested, please email Aggie on parish.sacredheartflitwicl@northamptondiocese.org

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 **catechist.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org** to register your interest and to be kept up to date with details about the application process.

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: Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I have faith? Why and how do I pray? Why and how should I read the Bible? How does God guide us? Holy Spirit Away Day What about church?

If you would like to take part, please email: parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £269.00
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee