Sacred Heart Flitwick

17 Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 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: The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden or fine pearls.

The Gospel reading describes the third set of parables by Jesus after the Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Weeds. Jesus compares the Kingdom of heaven (not the Kingdom of God) to a treasure hidden or to fine pearls. These precious treasures suggest that the kingdom of heaven is the supreme value of life, worthy of sacrifice above all else. The two parables underscore that the priceless value of truth and joy in the Kingdom of heaven is worth any human sacrifice. Everyone wants to be happy, but do we achieve happiness and Joy in life? The truth is the greatest treasure of the Kingdom of heaven. It can only be known through the Holy Spirit. These two similes symbolise the search for TRUTH and the JOY of finding it. Those who respond to Christ's invitation to the Kingdom of heaven will find the TRUTH, while those who do not do so will remain puzzled by the parables he preached (CCC#546).

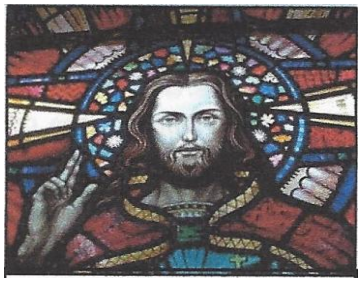
The choice for the ultimate value of the Kingdom of heaven or God's kingly rule is a question about the priority of values. In a society that is ever more doing away with sacred values like truth, justice, and the value of life, the Christian is called to prioritise these values, which is of great importance and requires sacrifices from all Christians. The catechism reminds us to be aware of our moral conscience when we make choices about values in life. It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself or herself in order to hear and follow the voice of his or her conscience. This requirement of interiority is all the more necessary as life often distracts us from any reflection, self-examination, or introspection (CCC #1779). The gift of our conscience enables us to perceive the principles of morality, their application in given circumstances through practical discernment of reasons and goods, and finally to judge concrete acts yet to be performed or already performed (CCC#1780).

May the Holy Spirit inspire our hearts to understand that the values of the kingdom of heaven are worthy of every human sacrifice.

CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR JULY — SEAFARERS, EUROPE

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 25 July	5.00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26 July	9.00 am	Eric and Irene McCusker, RIP
Sunday 26 July	11.00 am	Mary and Bernard Goodwin on Their 58th Wedding Anniversary
Tuesday 28 July	7.00 pm	Thanksgiving and Repose of the Soul of Philomena and Francis Tong, RIP
Wednesday 29 July	9.30 am	Intentions of Tony Nichols Who Is Ill *Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus*
Thursday 30 July	9.30 am	Vernal Patterson, RIP *St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*
Friday 31 July	10.00 am	The Holy Souls *St Ignatius Loyola, Priest*



PRIEST IN CHARGE
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SECRETARY
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HOSPITAL CONTACTS
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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 BPAC 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.

PARISH OFFICE NOTICE

Please note that I will **be away from 26 July until 18 August**. During this time, if you wish to arrange a Mass intention, please contact Suzanne on **smyates47@gmail.com**

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.*

200 CLUB WINNERS - JULY

1st - Maureen Graham, 2nd - Asia Jablonska, 3rd -Mary Aylward. Congratulations!

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

CANON DENIS ROOM — THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal for new chairs for the Canon Denis Room. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised enough money to buy the new chairs. They will make the room more comfortable for everyone who uses it. We really appreciate your support and kindness.

IN LOVING MEMORY

We ask you to pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Kosh**, a valued member of our parish community, who suddenly passed away on Monday, 20 July 2026. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

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?

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 £263.10
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee