Sacred Heart Flitwick

26 Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 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 to the chief priests and the elders of the people, What do you think? A man had two sons …'

The Gospel reading recounts the Parable of the Two Sons and shows how Jesus uses it to teach repentance and faith. The parable shows that we respond to God's invitation not only with words but also with our actions. Interestingly, the virtuous and obedient son was not the one who merely said he would do his father's will, but the one who, though he initially refused, later repented and fulfilled his father's command. The catechism reminds us of the purpose of Jesus' parables. The parables invite us to the feast of the kingdom and call for a radical choice. Words are not enough; deeds are required (CCC#546). The parable invites us to repentance. During the sacrament of reconciliation, we do not only need to confess our wrongs but also to show genuine remorse and contrition, as the first son did. The catechism teaches that contrition is the sorrow of the soul and the detestation of the sin committed, together with a resolution not to sin again (CCC#1451). An act of contrition can be either perfect or imperfect. It is a perfect act of contrition when confession arises from the love of God, that is, to have a sense by which God is loved above all else (CCC#1452). It is an imperfect act of contrition, also a gift of God, a prompting of the Holy Spirit, but borne of the consideration of sin's ugliness or the fear of eternal damnation and the other penalties threatening the sinner. By itself, however, imperfect contrition cannot obtain forgiveness of grave sins, but it disposes one to obtain forgiveness in the sacrament of penance (CCC#1453). The first son likely refers to the religious leaders, while the second son refers to tax collectors and prostitutes. Jesus points out that the tax collectors and the prostitutes, those they regard as hopelessly excluded from the Kingdom of God or from the company of Jesus, will enter it before the religious leaders. Although the religious leaders have accepted God's invitation, they have rejected it by refusing John's call to repentance and Jesus' authority. The despised group, realising their guilt, has wholeheartedly accepted God's call to repentance; however, even when the chief priests and elders of the people saw Jesus' miracles, they did not afterwards change their minds or believe in him.

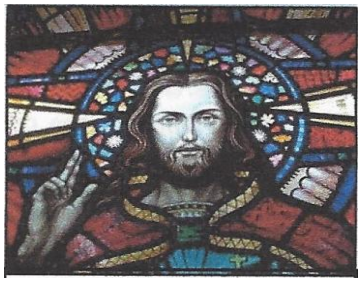
The call to repentance is timeless. At every moment of our lives, we are invited to repent and embrace what is good, what is better and even what is best. Although it may be frustrating, we should never rest until our good becomes better and our better becomes best. May the celebration of the Eucharist restore us in mind and body.

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 26 Sept.	5.00 pm	Ian Naugton, RIP
Sunday 27 Sept.	9.00 am	Thanksgiving and Repose of the Soul of Philomena and Francis Tong
Sunday 27 Sept.	11.00 am	Birthday Intentions of Beth Hutton; Repose of the Soul of Her Father, William, RIP
Tuesday 29 Sept.	7.00 pm	Intentions of Helen, Paul, Louise and Matthew Bordignon *Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels*
Wednesday 30 Sept.	9.30 am	Tina Patterson, RIP *St Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church*
Thursday 1 Oct.	9.30 am	Special Intentions *St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church*
Friday 2 Oct	10.00 am	Thanksgiving and Private Intentions of the Lewis, Tong and Yong Families **Mass for the Sick followed by Eucharistic Adoration** *The Holy Guardian Angels*



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

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 Saturday17 October**, together with the parish of Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard. If you are interested in joining this pilgrimage, please email parish secretary.

ROSARY IN OCTOBER

From 4 October and throughout the month of October, we will pray the Rosary 30 minutes before all Masses, where possible. We warmly invite everyone to join us in this beautiful prayer. The Rosary has a long tradition in the life of the Church. It developed over many centuries as a way of meditating on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through the eyes of Mary. In 1571, Pope Pius V established the feast of Our Lady of Victory, later known as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, following the Christian victory at the battle of Lepanto. In 1883, Pope Leo XIII encouraged the faithful to pray the Rosary especially during October.

ADOREMUS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2026

On Saturda,y 10 October 2026, Catholics from across England and Wales will unite in prayer, worship and witness for the Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress. Taking place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark and Westminster Cathedral in the heart of London, Adoremus is the bishops' invitation to the whole Church to renew and deepen our devotion to Jesus Christ, truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist. Please access all the information through this link https://northamptondiocese.org/adoremus-3/

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

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

DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING LINK

Here is the link to the latest diocesan safeguarding **policy** https://northamptondiocese.org/safeguarding/

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £292.50
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee