Sacred Heart Flitwick

22 Sunday in Ordinary Time

30 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: Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me…'

The Gospel reading is a follow-up conversation in which Jesus explains how he will build the Church on Peter's faith. In today's Gospel, Jesus acknowledges that his mission of redemption includes terrible suffering, death and resurrection, the first of three so-called Passion predictions. While Peter was receptive to the first revelation, he resisted the one about Jesus' suffering and death. It was very difficult for Peter to accept that the Messiah was destined to suffer and die on a cross. Peter would have none of it. In response, Christ delivered his severest rebuke, associating Peter with Satan. Jesus compared Peter to Satan, an occasion of sin who would lead him to abandon the sacred plan of God. There is no redemption without the Cross. The catechism teaches that the way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle (CCC#2015). Christ's Passion is the will of the Father because the Son acts as God's servant (CCC#555). The catechism describes the Cross as Christ's unique sacrifice, through which he mediates between God and Man. Jesus calls his disciples to take up their crosses and follow him, for Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example to follow in his steps (CCC#618). To be a true disciple of Christ, one must renounce oneself and carry one's cross. In fact, the penance imposed by the confessor must take into account the penitent's readiness to accept one's cross daily and follow Jesus Christ (CCC#1460).

The Cross is also a symbol of salvific suffering for all Christians. It is the only perfect sacrifice that Christ offered, a total offering to the Father's love and for our salvation. By uniting with his sacrifice, we can make our lives a sacrifice to God (CCC#2100). Sometimes we naturally feel reluctant to accept our own cross because of the excruciating pain and suffering it entails. Yet it is consoling to know that Christ, too, experienced the same reluctance in the flesh and struggled to overcome it. In our daily lives, humanity shows itself to be a disciple of Christ by carrying the cross in the daily work to which he or she is called (CCC#2427). May the celebration of the Mass bring us to embrace our individual crosses with dignity and with faith, hope and love.

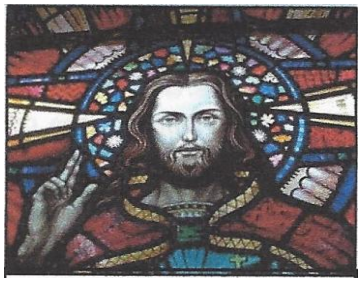
POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

FOR THE CARE OF WATER - LET US PRAY FOR A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER, A VITAL RESOURCE, SO THAT EVERYONE MAY HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO IT

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 29 August	5.00 pm	Bridget Kelly, RIP
Sunday 30 August	9.00 am	Maggie Kosh, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday 30 August	11.00 am	Maggie Kosh, Recently Deceased, RIP
Tuesday 1 September	7.00 pm	Intentions of the Lewis Family
Wednesday 2 September	9.30 am	Private Intentions
Thursday 3 September	9.30 am	Jozefa Baronakova, Recently Deceased, RIP *St Gregory the Great*
Friday 4 September	10.00 am	David and Marita Anne on the Occasion on Their Wedding *St Cuthbert, Bishop* *Eucharistic Adoration after Mass*



PRIEST IN CHARGE
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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

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.

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 or with selling tickets**. If you can help, please email **parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's liturgy will resume on 13 September.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

We shall be meeting on 11 and 18 September after 10.00 am Mass. Ring Sue Barley 01525 634186 for information.

SVP APPEAL

The weekend **12 and 13 September** will see the annual parish SVP appeal. **Envelopes for giving and permitting Gift Aid will be available in church next weekend, on 5 and 6 September**. 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.sacredheartflotwick@northamptondiocese.org 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 **catechist.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org** to register your interest and to be kept up to date with details about the application process.

200 CLUB – AUGUST

1st - Una McAlinden, 2nd - Andrew O'Shaughessy, 3rd - Fr John Danford. Congratulations!

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 £285.90
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee