Sacred Heart Flitwick

27 Sunday in Ordinary Time

4 October 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: Therefore, I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.

The Gospel readings present another image of the vineyard. This vineyard focuses on the tenants, not the fruit. Is this vineyard fruitful? The cause of the unfruitfulness is the tenants, the stewards, the chief and the elders. We suppose the tenants had a good relationship with the owner until they began to think evil and greedy thoughts. The tenants planned to take the vineyard owner's inheritance. What is the solution? Surprisingly, the solution is not to destroy the vineyard. Rather, the owner will get rid of the tenants, yes! God is about to get rid of the elders and the religious. 'Therefore, I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits'. Religious leaders are responsible for nurturing spiritual growth and fruitfulness among the people. But he will entrust it all to other people. Again, God's solution to the vineyard problem is never to give up. God is portrayed as the owner of the vineyard and his prophets are the servants sent to warn the labourers. When they refused to listen to the prophets, God sent his son, who was rejected and killed. Christ becomes the stone rejected by the builders and the cornerstone upon which the Church is built. The Catechism teaches that the Church is a cultivated field, God's tillage, a choice vineyard planted by the heavenly cultivator. Yet the true vine is Christ, who gives life and fruitfulness to the branches, that is, to us, who, through the Church, remain in Christ, without whom we can do nothing (CCC#755). In Christ, we have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which make us docile to the Holy Spirit's promptings (CCC#830).

May the almighty God refresh and nourish us through the sacrament we have received, so that we may be transformed into what we consume.

ROSARY IN OCTOBER

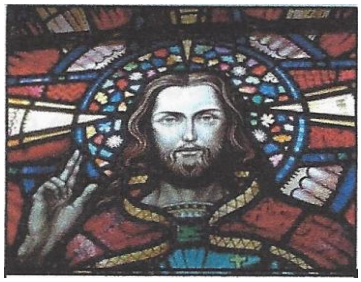
Let's begin this special month of October dedicated to the Holy Rosary by turning our attention to the Blessed Virgin Mary and asking for her intercession for our personal and community intentions. The prayers of the Virgin Mary, in her Fiat and Magnificat, are characterised by the generous offering of her being in faith (CCC#2617-2619; 2622). The Rosary is more than a repetition of prayers. It unites vocal prayer with meditation. It is an embodied prayer that places us beside the Mother of Our Lord at the foot of the Cross, contemplating the same mysteries of Christ's life that she contemplated. As St Pope John Paul II taught, although Marian in character, the Rosary is fundamentally Christ-centred. This Marian devotion is a particular way to endure the severity of life's trials. That's part of why October is the Month of the Holy Rosary. We remember the miraculous victory at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 that saved Christendom from Turkish invasion, as well as the Miracle of the Sun, when Mary manifested her presence to the crowds at Fatima in 1917.

This October, Pope Leo XIV invites us to pray for mental health ministry, asking that it may become established throughout the Church and help overcome the stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with mental illness.

CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR OCTOBER — PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES; THANKSGIVING FOR THE HARVEST AND HUMAN WORK

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 3 Oct.	5.00 pm	David Singleton, Recently Deceased, RIP
Sunday 4 Oct.	9.00 am	In Thanksgiving and for the Intentions of Dee, Michael, William and Roy
Sunday 4 Oct.	11.00 am	James Keyhoe, 8th Anniversary, RIP
Tuesday 6 Oct.	7.00 pm	Roger Eddleman, Birthday Anniversary, RIP *St Bruno, Priest*
Wednesday 7 Oct.	9.30 am	Guillermo and Alicia Zamudio Sanches, RIP *Our Lady of the Rosary*
Thursday 8 Oct.	9.30 am	Alan Caton, Recently Deceased, RIP
Friday 9 Oct	10.00 am	People of the Parish *St Osyth, Abbess*



PRIEST IN CHARGE
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SECRETARY
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WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK
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Paula Bates
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HOSPITAL CONTACTS
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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

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTION

This weekend at Masses, we will have a CAFOD Family Fast Day collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours who are 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. **You can donate using a CAFOD envelope available in church, online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, or by calling 0303 3033030. For information about other services and events taking place across our deanery, please see the noticeboard.**

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 Saturday 17 October,** together with the parish of Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard. If you are interested in joining this pilgrimage, please email the parish secretary for further details. For information about other services and events taking place across our deanery, please see the noticeboard.

ROSARY IN OCTOBER

October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, and this year Pope Leo XIV has invited Christians to pray the Rosary throughout the month, particularly for peace and an end to war. We will pray the Rosary 30 minutes before all Masses, where possible. We warmly invite everyone to join us in this beautiful prayer.

MISSIO SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

The Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes, which will be available in the porch next week, call 020 78219755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a direct debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

ADOREMUS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2026

On Saturday, 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/ This event is expected to be live streamed through Northampton Youtube channel. The Cathedral of Our Lady and St Thomas in Northampton will host 40 hours of Eucharistic Adoration from 6.00 am on Friday 9 October until 10.00 pm on Saturday 10 October, offering the faithful of the diocese a precious opportunity to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

OTHER NOTICES

LIVE SIMPLY OCTOBER

This month I will live simply by praying. I promise to pray for all the people who do not have a safe place to sleep or enough to eat this Harvest. Reflection: God calls us to work together to look after our world and share what we have so that everyone has what they need. Building a better world is not just about having more money; it is about respecting yourself and others and becoming the best person you can be.

DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

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

DIOCESEN SAFEGUARDING LINK

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

MACMILLAN – THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped, supported, donated and attended our Macmillan coffee morning. We are delighted to announce that we raised an amazing £683.70 for the Macmillan Cancer Support.

ROAD CLOSURE – GAS WORKS

Vicarage Hill will be temporarily closed from 19 October till 1 December to through traffic. There will be still some access to homes and businesses using the signed diversion route although there may be short periods when access is limited.

ALPHA UPDATE

The Alpha programme is going well in the parish. We have just completed week three, where we explored the theme of forgiveness. This was a poignant theme to think about and discuss. We were also able to reflect on the healing sacrament of reconciliation as Catholic Christians. Every week we meet over a wonderful meal in the newly refurbished Canon Denis room. We are so grateful to our catering team for their contribution and support. As we share hospitality, we talk and get to know one another. We then move to the parish room to watch our film about the evening's theme and discuss it over tea, coffee and sweet treats. We finish the evening with a thoughtfully prepared worship song and prayer led by Nishan. We have been blessed with a community of approximately 25 participants (guests and volunteers) on this Alpha journey. Please do continue to pray for us and let Aggie know if you would like to join the Alpha programme. Not everyone can attend every week. Registration is required via parish.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org.

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £333.90
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee