Sacred Heart Flitwick

23 Sunday in Ordinary Time

6 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: 'If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church…'

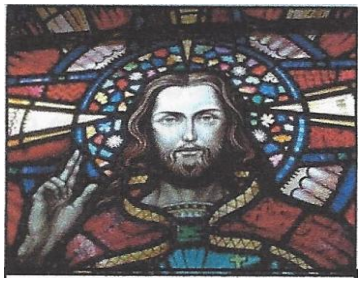
The Gospel reading offers practical guidance on intervening or offering 'fraternal correction' to a member of the Church or a family member who obstinately breaks the moral law. The aim of this fraternal correction is to win back a brother or sister. It is an act of great charity to help those who have strayed from the truth in matters of faith or morals, always exercised with prudence and kindness. In the spirit of charity, the community persists in efforts to remove every stumbling block and to bring the strayed member back into fellowship with the whole community. If that fails, however, the member is to be treated as a gentile or a tax collector. The purpose remains to win back the one who has strayed. The final consequence for those who refuse to listen is separation from the Church. The Church continues to encounter more serious dissensions, and large communities have become separated from full communion with the Catholic Church. This form of rupture wounds the unity of Christ's body through heresy, apostasy and schism (CCC#817).
The pursuit of unity and fraternal correction is a mission for the Church. Every baptised member of the Church, the faithful and the clergy alike, must be concerned with achieving unity within the Church. We must realise that this holy objective of reconciliation transcends human powers and gifts. Hence, we place all our hope in Christ's prayer for the Church, in the Father's love for us, and in the power of the Holy Spirit (CCC#822). The Church must focus on bringing back a member who has strayed rather than on disciplinary action. Fraternal correction must always spring from the well of love for a brother or a sister. The promise of Christ's presence among the faithful is very reassuring despite human weakness and visible disunity. Christ is present among us in many ways, including in the assembly of the faithful, in the Mass, in the sacraments, in his minister at the altar, in the word of God, and whenever the faithful gather for prayer. He is uniquely present, however, in the sacred species of the Eucharist. It is in this great Sacrament that we receive Christ's Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity (CCC#832).
May the celebrations of the Eucharist enable us to encounter Christ's love and to share it with our neighbour

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 5 September	5.00 pm	Michael and Anne O'Keefe RIP
Sunday 6 September	9.00 am	Thanksgiving and Private Intentions of the Lewis Family
Sunday 6 September	11.00 am	Ray Ward, RIP
Tuesday 8 September	7.00 pm	Thomas Traynor, Anniversary, RIP *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
Wednesday 9 September	9.30 am	Betty Mahony, Birthday Anniversary, RIP *St Peter Clavier*
Thursday 10 September	9.30 am	Ian Naugton, RIP
Friday 11 September	10.00 am	David Petersen, RIP



PRIEST IN CHARGE
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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 as soon as possible.** If we don't get enough people, we might have to cancel.

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.** If you can help, please email the parish secretary. **Raffle tickets will be available to purchase after the weekend Masses. There are some lovely hamper baskets to be won, so don't miss out!**

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 are available in church.** 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 secretary. 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 on **catechist.sacredheartflitwick@northamptondiocese.org** to register your interest. **Please respond by the end of September.**

RCIA 2027

If you are an adult interested in receiving the sacrament of Baptism or 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/

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**

CAR PARKING

A number of Flitwick residents have asked their local councillor to pass on their complaints and concerns about parking at our church. Our car park is not big, so it needs some discipline to make it work. Here are some important requests: **1. When you arrive please fill up the front parking spaces before using the second row, even on weekdays. This is for safety, as if people have to reverse into the front spaces from the front there is a risk to people walking through the other rows. 2. Please ensure that you don't block the entrance road as this could prevent emergency vehicles getting to the church. 3. If you are late for mass and 'double park' blocking people in, please ensure that you move your vehicle quickly after Mass. 4. Please do not park outside our neighbours' houses or the forecourt or pavement in front of the garage. 5. If there is no room for your vehicle in the car park or on Vicarage Hill there is usually space on Church Road on the left and across the road.** Please read these requests carefully and comply with them for the benefit of everyone.

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £159.60
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee