

newsletter



12th & 13th December 2009

The Third Sunday of Advent Year C



Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart *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.

Pope Close, Flitwick, MK45 1JP
Tel: 01525 715 109 www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Times of Mass



Saturday 12 th December	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Ampthill	James McPartland, RIP
Sunday 13 th December	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Teresa Deuane, RIP
	11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
	5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday 14 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Tuesday 15 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Mary Orford, RIP
Wednesday 16 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Thursday 17 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Intentions of Anne Beale
Friday 18 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Saturday 19 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions

Fr. Denis writes...

Each year, The Oscars ceremony displays the glamour of Hollywood. The world's press are there to record every minute. But it doesn't always go entirely smoothly. Most years, at least one award winner ends up looking foolish by crying his or her eyes out through the ceremony and in the acceptance speech. Often, too, they will give a long list of people to thank. They are in the spotlight but are asked to speak their own lines rather than a scriptwriter's, hence they fall apart.

In Scripture, we see that all the main characters speak from the heart. It is rare for them to have a prepared script. Inspired by prayer, and the Word of God, they have a

fresh message for us. For example in Luke 1:46, we hear the important words spoken by Mary. Her words have become part of the prayer of the Church, spoken or sung in Evening Prayer. These words have been set to music by some of the great composers in the world. Bach and Rachmaninov had settings for these words. Mary's prayer is known as The Magnificat, after the first words of the prayer in Latin.

Mary shows that she understands the great promise of God, and she will do all in her power to keep her promise to God. It is a great example to us as we continue our preparation for the birth of Jesus.

A Reflection by Fr. Denis

Had there been footballers in the time of John the Baptist what would he have said to them if they had come to him for advice, as those in today's Gospel do? (Luke 3:10-18) 'Play the man and keep your courage high'? (Joshua 1:18, depending on translation) or, 'Leave your knives at home'? Maybe not then, but today he might have to if a recent newspaper report is true.

Footballers in France's amateur leagues are being encouraged to leave their knives, scissors and even pistols at home because of an outbreak of on-pitch violence. Of the 700,00 matches played in the 2007-08 season, 12,000 had serious incidents of physical or verbal abuse. Hotheaded players, a.k.a. warm-hearted sportsmen, were responsible for 90 per cent of the violence, involving kicking (not the ball), punching and brawling.

Being a sportsman isn't easy, it seems being a thug comes easier. Doing what a Christian does isn't easy either: sharing food with those who have none, acting honestly in dealing with others, respecting them and never bullying or being greedy. John the Baptist makes no extraordinary demands. Unburdened with degrees in theology, philosophy, psychology, or by diplomas from courses in spirituality, dream analysis or tree hugging, he knows instinctively – as most of us do – what's needed: generosity, honesty and gentleness. These bring peace.

Christmas may ooze platitudinous peace. The real thing does not come cheap. Tinsel and mistletoe can never replace the word of God. That word brought Jesus to His death and resurrection. As we celebrate Advent, let's ask: 'Where is it bringing me?'

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Offertory collections for 5th and 6th December was £605.85. The combined profits for the bazaar and the donations in the collection plate for the new extension building-fund gave a grand total of £1706.13. Thank you, Fr Denis.

Information

CONFESSIONS

Saturday mornings from 11.00 am – please see newsletter for changes.

PRAYER LINE

Please ring for intercessory prayer on 01525 634 186. We have some wonderful answers to prayers. Be assured of full confidentiality.

HOSPITAL, SICK OR HOUSE-BOUND?

Please let us know of anyone who needs a visit or requires Holy Communion at home.

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP

meets every Monday at 7.45 pm. If you would like to join us or would like more details, contact John Flannigan on 01525 406 810.

LITTLE 'UNS

Meet every Friday 10.15 am–11.45 am in term time, in the Church Hall. For further information please contact Debbie Lewis on 01525 406 815 or Kerry Skidmore on 01525 635 095.

CARDS, GIFTS, etc.

Are available for sale in Sacred Heart Church Hall after 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses. All are priced. Please put money in the repository box in the porch or see Margaret.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER ONLINE

The church newsletter is available online from the website
<http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk>

SUNDAY LATIN MASS

Fr. Armand de Malleray, of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter, celebrates the Latin Mass here each Sunday at 5.00 pm. The Mass, from the Missal of 1962, fulfils the Sunday Obligation.

Newsletter copy deadline – Tuesday 12.00 midday. Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates, email suz_yates@btinternet.com; telephone 01525 840 661



Star in the South



A Christmas concert with Flitwick Singers in aid of Prebend Day Centre, Bedford and Christian Family Care, Bedford

18th December Sacred Heart Church

19th December Flitwick Methodist Church

Both start 7.30 pm - the same programme.

Tickets £7, concessions £6

For tickets see Anne Gadsden or ring 01525 714 847 or they may be purchased on the night.



A big thank you to those who collected stamps. This year we supported The Pasque Charity, Oxfam, and the RSPB. I have even discovered an old horses and donkeys sanctuary that also collects. The stamps from your church go to the charities which sort and sell them to stamp dealers. The charities receive income which helps their good work.

PLEASE save the stamps from your Christmas card envelopes, cut them with a quarter inch paper margin, and put in the box at the Church entrance.

I shall send to the various charities. They are so grateful.

This can be done throughout the year and costs little time – even half a dozen stamps help.

Again, LOTS of thanks to you all.

Margaret Gummery.



Choir Practice

will be held at

7.30 pm on

Tuesday 15th December.

New members always

welcome. This will be the

last rehearsal for the

Christmas Carol Service to

be held on 20th December.



Tea and Talk



On 14th December

we will be having our Tea

and Talk Christmas

Lunch at The Prince of

Wales in Amptill.

Church cleaning will be

on 22nd December at 7.30

pm – all welcome.

Training and

equipment

provided!



Parish Charismatic Prayer Group.

Our next meeting will be 15th December

at 8.00 pm at Church and

will be a short time of

seasonal praise followed

by a shared supper - all

welcome!

For more information

please contact Helen

Burgess: 01525 405 823.



Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 6.00 pm

Calling all children (Year 1 to Year 7) who would like to have a special part in the service on Christmas Eve (Readers, Offertory, Meet & Greet, etc.).

Please come to a short practice after 9.00 am

Mass on Sunday 20th December.

Any queries to Siobhan Campbell 01525 630 384

Reminder

Readers and drivers for next week, 12th and 13th December.

Mass	6.00 pm - Amptill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Joel Ita	Pat Crowe	Anne Gadsden
2 nd Reader	Michael Ita	Mary Bray	Martin Brennan
Eucharistic Minister		Jane Crow	Hilary Brennan
Driver		Louis Chadwick	

Readers and drivers for next week, 19th and 20th December.

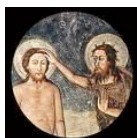
Mass	6.00 pm - Amptill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Christopher McMellon	Dermott Whelan	Felicity Detemple
2 nd Reader	Charles Waterford	John Flanagan	Noelette Hanley
Eucharistic Minister		Noreen Glover	M or N Lawton
Driver		Marion McClurg	

Thoughts from the homily

Fr. Denis

Supposing you were to take five minutes out today to sit with the question that you posed to John the Baptist, to sit sincerely with the question, in peace and quiet, without any pressure or guilt trip. It would be interesting to reflect on what on what comes to mind. It is obvious, of course, that I would do this after a whispered prayer to the Holy Spirit to enlighten me. I strongly suggest you do this.

John tells us that the Messiah will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Through his Spirit, he will enkindle within us the fires of divine love; he will stir up within us a zeal and enthusiasm for things of God. Most of us, I'm sure, have been baptised with water. Our experience of living the Christian life may not be very exciting or energising. I'm sure you have heard the phrase about 'having fire in your belly'. Once again, here is another suggestion for a five-minute time of stillness. Open your heart, and ask Jesus to complete your Baptism of water by



baptising you with the Holy Spirit. Ask with a strong, sense of expectation...

How real does the sense of Good News ring in your heart? Familiarity can breed contempt. The opposite to love is not hatred, but indifference. Without knowing it, I can easily slip into an indifferent mode, where nothing is really passing my head, and entering my heart. A life without reflection is a life that's not worth living. Indifference usually comes from the absence of reflection. Even as children, we excused our wrong-doings by saying 'Oh, I never thought!' There is just over one week to Christmas. It would be wonderful to make that a time of reflection. How to do this would be up to each individual. Reflection is a condition of the heart, and I can reflect in the midst of throngs. There will, however, be those few quiet moments that each of us can steal from our schedule, no matter how hectic that schedule might be. If I am too busy to reflect, then, indeed, I am too busy.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RESULTS



Many, many thanks to the Lord our God for blessing our Christmas Bazaar and for all who helped to make our first Christmas Bazaar for many years a thoroughly worthwhile event! More than £700.00 was taken by a variety of stalls and activities, and more than £200 in other donations was given on the day!

Bearing in mind we put the whole thing together in just a few weeks and only publicised it through the parishioners, this is an excellent result. Not only did we have sufficient helpers but we were also blessed by the personal generosity of so many giving their time, donations and contributions allowing our costs to be kept to a minimum.

The event was blessed with a good turn-out from the parish and the great sense of working for the Lord as a community was noticed and commented upon by many people.

Look out for similar events that will both support our facilities fund and build our sense of community.

A number of people offered to organise/help in fundraisers; they will be invited in the New Year to plan a range of events.

Once again, on behalf of the parish, many, many thanks.

Prize winners on the day were:

Guess the Weight of the Hamper – Don Perrett

Build a Christmas Tree – 1st prize Kira Davis, 2nd prize Michael Burgess

Craft Table Centre raffle – Frank McKenna

