

# newsletter



14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> November 2009

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Year B



## 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](http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk)

## Times of Mass



Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Ampthill	Mary Cowell, RIP
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
	11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Mary Cowell, RIP
	5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Eileen Halton, RIP
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Giulio Fabi, RIP
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Eucharist Service
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Mary Cowell, RIP
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	NO SERVICE AT 9.30 am and NO CONFESSIONS		

## *Fr. Denis writes*

Agatha Christie's Poirot detective stories are still popular even some ninety years after they were written. The television series following the stories brought the series to life with interesting styles of clothes and buildings. When he knows the perpetrator, Poirot's style is to gather the characters together to reveal the guilty one. Readers and watchers are kept in suspense until the last moment.

Next week, the Feast of Christ the King pulls all the threads of the Church's year together. But here there is no guilty one, just memories of the events we had in the Church, the people we remembered in prayer, those baptised, those

who died. Added to this list will be the ways in which the Lord spoke to us during YEAR B, as we call it. On 29<sup>th</sup> November we will begin a new year in the Church, the first Sunday of Advent Year C.

It is said that Advent is a series of events that happened over thousands of years. Sometimes the people understood God's message, often they failed to heed it. Then, on 25<sup>th</sup> December, all the threads are pulled together to reveal to us great joy.

In spite of what happens in our world and in life, we find comfort and peace in the knowledge that God's promise is being renewed in us every day.

## A Reflection by Fr. Denis

There are only two possibilities: human life has meaning or it hasn't. It has direction powered by purpose, or else it's like a fungus, free-floating on a speck of cosmic dust going nowhere fast. But if there is nothing beyond what we see, touch, taste, hear and smell, from where comes the heart's deep yearning for things beyond the senses? Francis Thompson expresses that yearning in his poem, 'In No Strange Land':

O world invisible, we view thee  
O world intangible, we touch thee  
O world unknowable, we know thee  
Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!



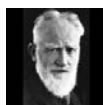
That clutching is for that which gives life its mystery, for that which shatters the daily deceit of seemingly ordinary things in order to grace us with a glimpse of their grandeur. It's palpable in music that captivates the soul, in poetry that punctuates the mundane with rhythm from another zone. It's in art that sates the eye with beauty, transcending time. It's in people when they love, and even when they don't.

When we're in touch with mystery, today's First Reading (Dan 12:1-13) will not seem as bizarre as it might otherwise appear. Its style won't take from its substance. Resurrection of the dead is clearly central to God's plan for His creation.

We need to focus on resurrection; else death will have the final say. And the spot for the focus is life's ordinary things. Again Francis Thompson:  
Not where the wheeling systems darken  
And our benumbed conceiving soars!  
The drift of pinions, would we hearken  
Beats at our own clay-shuttered doors.

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'I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend ... if you have one.' *George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill.*



'Cannot possibly attend first night will attend second ... if there is one.' *Winston Churchill, in response.*

## 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

noon Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates, email [suz\\_yates@btinternet.com](mailto:suz_yates@btinternet.com) or telephone 01525 840 661


14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> November

Retiring Collection for Sick and Retired Clergy Fund.

This year seven of our priests will be retiring – two have retired already. This collection is the main source of income towards the Fund and we would ask you to give generously. Some of the retired priests are in poor health and most have given over forty years of service to the Church.

First Holy prayers are asked for the 10 children who have recently begun preparation classes for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, and for their families.



 Altar Servers: Thank you to all the new altar servers who have done so well over recent weeks. Please feel free to fill in any gaps on the Rota in the porch. Old hands are welcome to sign up too! Thank you.

## CONFIRMATION 2010

We are praying that we will be in a position to start Confirmation preparation in January 2010 looking to administering the Sacrament in late spring/early summer 2010.

For this to happen we require two things:

### 1. CANDIDATE:

- ◆ Are you in school year 8 or higher?
- ◆ Would you like to understand more about your faith?
- ◆ Would you like the opportunity to come to know Jesus better?
- ◆ Would you like to be confirmed in your Catholic faith?

Then you need to let us know by dropping a note in to Canon Denis, giving us your name, birth date and contact details, on or before the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

### 2. CATECHIST:

At the moment we have no adult Catechist available to lead the preparation of our young people, so;

- ◆ Are you a practising Catholic with a heart to share your faith with our young people?
- ◆ Do you think you could be part of a team preparing our young people to be confirmed?
- ◆ Would you like to be blessed with the joy of seeing our young people come to a fuller understanding of their faith?

If so then you need to let us know by dropping a note to Canon Denis, giving us your name and contact details, on or before the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

If we have no Catechists then we will have no confirmation preparation – it is as simple as that!

PLEASE PRAY THAT WE DO HAVE CANDIDATES and CATECHISTS COME FORWARD IN TIME

## HEALING WEEKEND

Fr. Laurence O.S.A. and Pauline Edwards will be leading us throughout, to help us receive God's healing grace.

- On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> from 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm there is to be a healing evening.
- On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> from 10.30 am – 1.30pm and 3.30 am – 7.30 pm there is an opportunity for a private half hour meeting with Fr. Laurence and Pauline for

- You will be able to book your meeting time after future Masses or phone Nicky at the contact number below.
- On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm there will be a wonderful day of teaching, music and prayer. So bring a packed lunch or just come for the morning or afternoon if you can't make the whole day.

Contact Nicky Paterson on 07843 055 764 for more details.

## Reminder

Readers and drivers for this week, 14<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Mass	6.00 pm - Amphill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Michael Ita	Dennis Horner	Noelette Hanley
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Joel Ita	Bea Cheshire	John Gallagher
Eucharistic		Tom Eastwood	Clare Bevan
Driver		Bea Cheshire	

Readers and drivers for next week, 21<sup>st</sup> November and 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Mass	6.00 pm - Amphill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Angela Bartlett	Eamonn Diver	Roslyn Penn
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	John Devine	Siobhan Campbell	Pauline Chambers
Eucharistic		Astrid Browne	Nicki Paterson
Driver		David Toland	

# Thoughts from the homily

Fr. Denis

## Apocalypse

In the pages of the Bible there are many stories of great figures who, as they see their deaths approaching, gather their children or followers to give a final testament. Before Jacob died, he called his twelve sons to give an appropriate blessing to each. The dying Moses encouraged his people to be strong and stand firm; he appointed his successor to lead the twelve tribes. Before King David ended his days, he addressed the officials of Israel and passed authority to his son Solomon. In the same way, Jesus, before He died, gathered His disciples and delivered His final teaching on the future age, instructing them how to live in the midst of political and cosmic upheavals. Part of Jesus' final testament is what we hear in today's Gospel.

It's helpful to remember that St Mark is writing at a time when there is widespread oppression and persecution of the Christian community in Rome. No doubt Jesus' followers are wondering if the end is near, uncertain in their suffering how things are going to turn out. Nobody knows the details of the last pages of history, but there is a form of writing that imagines the end of time: it is called apocalyptic. To give his readers hope, Mark gives Jesus' vision of the future.

The vision of the future doesn't look very appealing at first reading. The bad news is

delivered first of all. Jesus imagines a time of terror and trouble and persecution. People will be betrayed and handed over to the authorities. There will be wars and earthquakes and famines. Jesus says, 'These things must happen.' Then there will be cosmic upheavals: 'the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven.' After this catalogue of disaster there is the good news. Jesus looks beyond the time of distress to the final time, when the Son of Man will gather the scattered people of God to Himself. Jesus sees beyond suffering and persecution to a future of peace with God.

After the cosmic fireworks, Jesus imagines a peace beyond suffering. This vision of peace is important for Mark's persecuted community; they need more than a fireworks' display to see through their own historical apocalypse. If their hope is not to be exhausted by force of circumstances, they need to imagine a far side to pain and suffering. Mark gives them hope to help in sharing Jesus' vision. For that is the purpose of all apocalyptic writing: to fund the hope of those who suffer in the present.

In the meantime, we have to depend on the promise of Jesus: 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.' No one, not even the Son, knows when all this will take place. The only sure thing we can hold to is the word of Jesus.

## Coming Events

Event	Date	Time	Venue	Contact
Tea and Talk	16 <sup>th</sup> November	2.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church Hall	
Parish Charismatic Prayer Group	17 <sup>th</sup> November	8.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church Hall	Helen 01525 405 823
Picture House Charity Cinema	20 <sup>th</sup> November	7.00 pm	Tads Theatre, Conger Lane Toddington.	Don Perrett and Noreen Glover
Barton Angels	27 <sup>th</sup> November		Details soon	
Advent Event	30 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm	Amphill Baptist Church	