

newsletter



16th and 17th January 2010

The 2nd Sunday of 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	16 th January	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Amptill	Mary and James Goggin, RIP
Sunday	17 th January	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Parish Intentions
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Edward Lahive, RIP
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions - Latin Mass
Monday	18 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Tuesday	19 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Wednesday	20 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Thursday	21 st January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Friday	22 nd January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Saturday	23 rd January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions

A Reflection by Fr. Denis

I wonder if the UK chart-topping, 1986 hit *Lady in Red* by Chris de Burgh would have soared so high had she been in green. Wearing red not only gets you noticed, it can also get you ahead even in the Olympic Games, according to one lecturer at Durham University, England. Wearing red marks you as aggressive and dominant.

Today's first reading (1 Cor. 12:4-11) lists distinguishing marks for members of the Christian community. The colour red doesn't get a look-in. Neither do designer labels, gym work-outs, health-food diets or high-tech gizmos (even had they existed). But then they wouldn't; all the qualities listed are for service, not dominance or ego-gratification. Also, everything on the list is internal to the

individual, not external. I don't need to enhance my appearance for service, but I do need to enhance my self. And the gifts listed in this reading do just that: wise utterance, knowledgeable speech, faith witness, power to heal, working miracles, prophesying and the ability to discern spirits, talking in tongues and interpreting them.

To put these gifts in more contemporary wrapping we might list them as: having commonsense, being informed, practising what I preach, comforting those in difficulty, helping without counting the cost, being my brother's keeper, being in touch with life's basics, being open to God's Spirit and open to those open to God's Spirit.

It's surprising at times that if you...(cont p 2)

Fr. Denis writes...

Having defeated Napoleon in 1815 at the battle of Waterloo, it was on 22nd January in 1827, that the Duke of Wellington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Army.



After defeating Napoleon, Wellington heard someone say that war was glorious. He replied:

Take my word for it; if you had seen but one day of war, you would pray to Almighty God that you might never see such again.

On one occasion an army deserter was brought before him. Wellington was about to pronounce the death sentence on him, and said:

'I am extremely sorry to pass this severe sentence but we have tried everything and all the discipline and penalties have failed to improve this man who is otherwise a brave and good soldier.'

Then the Duke of Wellington invited his fellow-soldiers to speak on his behalf. One of them said:

'Sir, there is one thing you have not tried. You have not tried forgiving him.'

Wellington was struck by these words and told the deserter that he was forgiven. Never again did the soldier desert, and he always showed his appreciation to the Duke.

Let's pray in silence for a moment for someone who I need to forgive, or just for someone who has forgiven me ...

Father,

I ask you
to help me be generous
when I think
of the attitude and actions of others.

Forgiving someone
isn't an easy option,
and I know that forgiveness
isn't somehow pretending
that something wrong
hasn't happened.

For what I have done wrong

A Reflection by Fr. Denis (cont. from p 1) should go public, so to speak, and say that these are the qualities that distinguish true Christians, some of that public, even those not Christian, will probably see red!

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 from the website
<http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk>

forgive me Father,
to the extent
that I am generous in forgiving –
or hoping to forgive –
those who have done wrong to me.
Amen.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

will meet as usual at 80 George St., Maulden at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 26th January. Come and join us to pray for family and friends and see Our Lord answer our prayers as we put all into His hands. Ring Sue on 01525 634 186



Parish Charismatic Prayer Group

meets regularly to praise God for His blessings and to pray for our intentions. For more information please contact Helen Burgess: 01525 405 823. Our next meeting will be on 19th January from 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm.

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.



'GATHERING TOGETHER IN WORSHIP'

An event hosted by Christian youth groups in Ampthill and Flitwick.

You are welcome to join us on the **31st January 2010, 2.30 pm at the Redborne School drama studio** for a time of worship and teaching.

Tea and Talk

Our next meeting will be on 18th January, from 2.00 pm at Sacred Heart Church Hall Flitwick. Newcomers welcome.



Newsletter copy deadline – Tuesday 12 midday.

Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates, email suz_yates@btinternet.com; telephone 01525 840 661

Offertory collections

26th and 27th December

was £344.95

2nd and 3rd January was

£478.69.

9th and 10th January was

£428.38

The White Flower appeal raised £211.54

Thank you Fr. Denis

Pre-Communion Group.

The group is for 5- to 7ish-year-olds and meets in the Church on Sunday mornings from 9.45 am to 10.30 am.

The next meeting is 24th January. New members are welcome.



Reminder

Readers and drivers for next week, 16th and 17th January.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Christine Jackson	John Flanagan	Una McAlinden
2 nd Reader	Mary Brown	Dee Brady	Anne Gadsden
Eucharistic		Jane Crow	Grace M ^c Kenna
Driver		William Doyle	

Readers and drivers for next week, 23rd and 24th January.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Angela Bartlett	Dermot Whelan	Martin Brennan
2 nd Reader	John Devine	Bea Cheshire	Felicity Detemple
Eucharistic		M. Stynes	Hilary Brennan
Driver		David Linda	

Thoughts from the homily...

Fr. Denis

The prophets had foretold an abundance of wine in messianic days. At Cana Jesus provided just that. And all those who tasted the new agreed that it was better than the old. We note the sheer generosity of the miracle. Those six jars were capable of holding somewhere between twenty and thirty gallons each. We see not only Jesus' power, but also His generosity. We get a glimpse of the warmth in His heart. The new order began with an act of compassion.



What Jesus did at Cana was not a once-off thing. It pointed to what would happen all through His ministry. The changing of water into wine is a symbol for what He was about. Everywhere He went, the old was made new. For the widow of Nain He changes tears into joy. For Zacchaeus He changed selfishness into love. For the thief on Calvary He changed despair into hope. And on Easter morning He changed death into life.

His presence could change beyond recognition the lives of those with whom He came into contact. And He continues to do this for those who believe in Him and follow Him. He transforms our lives into something wonderful. He offers us something that we pine for but can't achieve on our own. He offers us a share in the divine life – nothing less than the ecstasy of communion with God. But all this will remain at the level of theory unless we experience it in our lives, unless in some way in our own lives Jesus changes water into wine.

Water is a good thing and essential for bodily survival. Although it gives satisfaction it doesn't give joy. Wine, on the other hand, intoxicates and raises the spirit.

Blessed are those who thirst for the new 'wine' that Jesus provides. The old is the promise; the new is the fulfilment.



Notice: Christian Unity Service at St Andrew's Church, Ampthill on Sunday, 17th January at 6.30 pm.



CONFIRMATION 2010

The team who are going to help prepare candidates for confirmation have now met and put the programme together. The parents and candidates are invited to an introductory meeting on:

**Wednesday 3rd February 2010 – 7.30 pm
at Sacred Heart Church, Flitwick.**

If you have not already registered as a candidate, this meeting will be the last chance to do so for the 2010 programme. Do come along to find out more.