

# newsletter



20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Year C



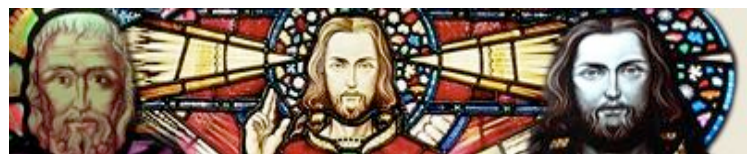
## Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart *Our Mission*

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

## Times of Mass



Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Ampthill	Private Intentions
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup> February	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Geraldine Cunningham, RIP
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>9.00 am</b>	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
		7.30 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Eucharistic Service

## *A Reflection by Fr. Denis*

Fasting, like prayer, is one of the core notions in Christianity, as indeed in all great religions. It requires no justification. It is a traditional religious way, since the dawn of civilisation, of acknowledging one's God. The historical and economic arguments only serve to reinforce its validity. They would have been largely superfluous in other times. But moderns seem to want Christianity without the cross, the carnival, but not Lent. And in



this we are out of step not only with the Gospel but also with two thousand years of tradition. In the Irish language, three of the seven days of the week were named by reference to fasting. Wednesday was called *Céadaoin*, the first fast, Friday, *Aoine*, fast day, and Thursday, *Diardaoin*, a corruption of *idir dhá aoine*, between two fasts. And in those days the normal fare would now be considered subsistence rations

**Stations of the Cross** will be held this Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm

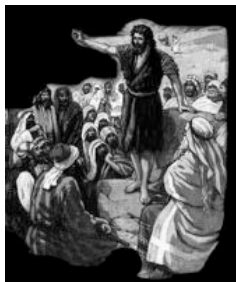


*Fr. Denis writes ...*

When we watch a sporting event in a stadium or on television, we have to view, beside the contest, the words of many advertisements encouraging us to buy. You will see these in large print, around the wall of the pitch or stadium. Supermarkets spend fortunes seeking memorable slogans to get us through their doors rather than those of their rivals. Politicians make sure that they include striking 'sound bites' in lengthy speeches ('you've never had it so good'/'a week is a long time in politics'). We live in a world awash with words.

The prophets spoke out because they attended the word of the Lord as it came to them. In Lent we will often hear Isaiah reminding the exiles in Babylon about the power of the creative word of God: it 'goes forth from my mouth and does not return to me empty'. In October 2008 Bishops and other religious leaders met in Rome for a Synod on 'The Word of God in the life and Mission of the Church'. They were led by some Jewish leaders, experts in the words of the Old Testament.

How do we respond to this living and active word of God? Not, Jesus tells us in The Sermon on the Mount, by babbling with many words as the pagans do when they pray, but with confident prayer to the God Who is Father. Jesus gave us the Our Father prayer, as a model. It is much more than a 'sound bite'. It is a living word that brings us nearer to God.



*I will be away for the next few weeks and Bernadette has agreed to do the newsletter for me – please note the new details.*  
**Newsletter copy deadline – Tuesday midday.** Newsletter contact: Bernadette Johnson, email leemoll@aol.com; telephone 01525 862 862

## *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>

### **MASS TIME CHANGES**

Mass this Tuesday morning will be at 9.00 am as Fr. Denis has to go to a meeting of the Chapter of Canons in Northampton. There will be a Eucharistic Service this Saturday morning at 9.30 am as Fr. Denis will be talking at a Men's Breakfast.



### WANTED – Parish Christian Aid Representative

The role involves meeting with representatives from other churches in the area to plan the Christian Aid Week's collection generally; to be responsible for organising the house-to-house collection in the areas allocated to our church. If you are interested, contact Canon Denis on 01525 715 109 as soon as possible.

### 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 today, 21<sup>st</sup> February.



### FACILITIES FUND

We now have a board at the back of Sacred Heart Church so that we can watch our facilities fund grow!

There has been a wonderful response to date with the fund standing at >£3,000!

The board also highlights the past month's actions and the next months plans.

During February we will:

- Revised plans taking into account feedback received
- Prepare for planning permission to be submitted
- Continue with fund-raising activities

If you have any suggestions for fund raising or would like to make an additional donation to the Facilities Fund then do please complete the form available at the back of church and/or use the small brown "Additional Donation" envelopes.

### Tea and Talk

Our next meeting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> March, from 2.00 pm at Sacred Heart Church Hall Flitwick. Newcomers welcome.

There will be a sung Latin Mass in the traditional rite here this Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm Refreshments after Mass



**Family Fast Day, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February.** This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lent Fast Day and we're asking you to **give it up!** Most of us usually give up something for Lent. This year why not create some amazing changes for people who live in the developing world by giving the money saved to CAFOD? You can read more about the impact our Lenten sacrifices could have in the Fast Day leaflets that are available in church this week. **The second collection next week will be for CAFOD.**

### A TOUCH OF ITALIA

Our Italian-themed Valentines dinner raised more than £400.00 for the Facilities Fund. Our thanks go to those who cooked and served the meal ... and a special thanks to those who came to support the event, enjoyed the evening and showed great generosity.

**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.

### Reminder

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and drivers for this week, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Mary Brown	Marion McClurg	Noreen Weighell
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Christine Jackson	Gerard Kerrigan	Una McAlinden
Eucharistic	Martin Stynes	Jane Crow	Clare Bevan
Eucharistic	Margaret Gummery	Hilary Brennan	Roslyn Penn
Driver		Marion McClurg	

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and drivers for next week, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader	Joel Ita	Dermott Whelan	Dennis Horner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Michael Ita	Martin Brennan	Mary Bray
Eucharistic	Adrian Hamilton	Astrid Browne	C./H. Davies
Eucharistic	Pat King	Carlos Rincon	Grace McKenna
Driver		David Linda	

# Thoughts from the homily...

## Fr. Denis

At the heart of the Old Testament there is a great story of liberation: how God intervened to free His people from slavery. The people were immigrants in Egypt, used as cheap labour, and their number was kept low by the systematic killing of newborn male infants. In the story of the exodus the Jews still celebrate the momentous event of freedom from oppression and the beginning of their journey to the Promised Land. And in today's first reading we heard how the people always kept the good memory alive.



However, after they were freed from slavery, the people of Israel had to face a new problem: the wilderness. Their new freedom meant new pain and some of them didn't think much of an escape that led them into a wilderness! Some preferred living under Pharaoh; they preferred the security that went with bondage to the pain that went with freedom. For the price of freedom was wilderness.

During their forty years in the desert the people were tested. They were hungry and wondered if God would pay attention. They were divided in their hearts about God: they wanted to trust Him, but their empty

stomachs made them doubt. The Promised Land seemed far away and their hunger to trust Him, but their empty stomachs made them doubt. The Promised Land seemed far away and their hunger was here and now. They were told there was a purpose in their hunger, 'to teach you that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'. (Deut. 6:4) The great commandment asked them to be *wholehearted* in their commitment to God.



Jesus lives His life facing real temptations and that is a measure of His humanity. As we enter Lent we ask ourselves how we face those temptations too. When times get rough and we feel hungry and alone, do we still trust in God? When our life just seems a vast vacancy, do we still believe in the Father who loves us? Are we willing to risk our necks for the sake of the Gospel, or do we settle for guarding our own security? Do we make our authority felt so that people are degraded, or is it a real service to others?

These are not easy questions. They were not easy for Jesus. That is why we need forty days: to let these questions reach us again so that at Easter we can proclaim with an undivided heart that Jesus is the Lord of our lives.



### Parish Charismatic Prayer Group

is currently following a study on the Eucharist.

All welcome to join them for this informative time of sharing. For information contact Helen Burgess: 01525 405 823. Our next meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 8.00 – 9.30 pm.

### Women's World Day of Prayer



A Service 'Let Praise God' prepared by the Christian Women of Cameroon is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm at St. Peter and Paul Church in Flitwick. Also there is a service at The Amptill Baptist Church at 10.30 am. Everyone is welcome.

### MOTHERS' PRAYERS

will meet at 80 George St., Maulden at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Come and pray for family and friends and hear Our Lord answer our prayers as we put all into His hands. Ring Sue on 01525 634

