

newsletter



23rd and 24th January 2010

The 3rd 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	23 rd January	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Ampthill	Lizzie and John Graney, RIP
Sunday	24 th January	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Michael John Rendall, RIP
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	25 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Intentions of Irene Long (100 yrs old)
Tuesday	26 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Wednesday	27 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	John Field, RIP
Thursday	28 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Thursday	28 th January	7.30 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Friday	29 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Ede-Pieckielon, Rip
Saturday	30 th January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions

A Reflection by Fr. Denis

Gambling is one of our growing problems. You can bet your bottom dollar on that!

This, alarmingly, doesn't include on-course betting, gambling on the National Lottery, or online. Many people relish risk, crave for chance and feed on fickle fate instead of solid faith. For some people there can be nothing odd with the odds when it comes to risk-taking for money. What, in sober moments, most of us would count as throwing money away, gung-ho gamblers see as a prelude to a victory parade.

Today's Gospel reading (Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21) doesn't deal with chance, though there may be some risk later down the road.



It presents us with odds-on certainty: the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah in the person of Jesus. He was prophesied as the one who brings news of freedom to captives and those oppressed because the Spirit of God rests on Him (4:18-19). In other words, because God is with Jesus He can enable us to live free of addictions, compulsions and false values. It's totally an upbeat prophecy, and indeed Jesus is totally upbeat about it. Question is: are we?

Do we accept Jesus as He who brings us freedom? Or, do we see Him as cramping our style? But there's nothing that's moral and legal that we can't do as a Christian that we could do, were we not. You can bet your bottom dollar on that too.

Fr. Denis writes ...

In Shakespeare's Macbeth, Lady Macbeth consciously divests herself of any shred of compassion or maternal instinct, invoking the spirits to fill her with 'direst cruelty'. She then goads her husband into committing murder, with tragic consequences. One of the greatest personifications of evil ever-portrayed in drama is in Lady Macbeth. So, it is astonishing how we, the audience, respond to Macbeth's speech upon hearing of her death. We find ourselves sharing a husband's grief at losing someone whose death we might have thought to be a cause for celebration.



Through the reading of Scriptures, we have come to Paul, or Saul, as an intensely human, morally frail man, consumed by jealousy and motivated by revenge. When we hear David's eulogy, as we did at Mass yesterday, echoing the sentiment that he was, indeed 'loved'.

Something happens when we hear about death. Death has a way of stopping us in our tracks, and we cease to judge the dead person for earthly deeds. Perhaps that is because we understand that he or she stands before our maker. It doesn't mean that we ignore the bad things the person has done – if anything we see that person more clearly. But we no longer shoulder the burden of judgement, because we hand responsibility over to God, who is rightfully the only judge of both the living and the dead.

On Monday the 25th January, we will celebrate the Feast Day of the Conversion of St Paul. It reminds again, that there is good in every human being. Saul became Paul, and went on to change the world. He still inspires us today.



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>

Solitude Saturday – Will be held on 30th January at the Convent of Sisters of St Clare, 3 Abigail Close, Luton LU3 1ND. YOU are welcome to come for a *quiet* hour or two when you can escape from your busy lives!! The kettle will be on!



Newsletter copy deadline – Tuesday 12 midday. Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates, email suz_yates@btinternet.com; telephone 01525 840 661



Haiti Disaster

Along with many relief organisations, CAFOD is launching an appeal to all parishes. On Sunday next, 31st January, we shall have a retiring collection for this purpose. CAFOD guarantees that each donation reaches the people of Haiti and will be put to good use. We thank you in advance for your 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.

Pre-Communion Group.

This Sunday morning from 9.45 am to 10.30 am. New members are welcome.

There will be no Mothers' Prayers on Tuesday 26th January. Ring Sue on 01525 634 186 for information

Sung Latin Mass in the Traditional Rite will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Church on Thursday, 29th October at 7.30 pm



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.

Offertory collections 16th and 17th January were £470.02 and £480.00 for the building fund. Thank you. Fr. Denis.



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 2nd February from 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm.

Tea and Talk

Our next meeting will be on 1st February, from 2.00 pm at Sacred Heart Church Hall Flitwick. Newcomers welcome.



Swine Flu

Bishop Peter has written to each parish stating we may resume offering the Precious Blood at Holy Communion. We will resume the practice on the first weekend in February. Although you receive Communion wholly under either form (host or chalice) the sign is more complete if we receive both. The Holy Water stoup will be in use again from that weekend.



Reminder

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	

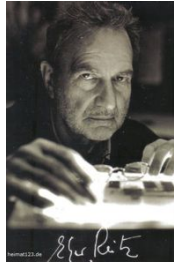
Readers and drivers for next week, 30th and 31st January.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Suzanne Yates	Eamonn Diver	Pauline Chambers
2 nd Reader	Christopher McMellon	Mary Bray	N./M. Lawton
Eucharistic		Noreen Glover	Claire Chambers
Driver		David Toland	

Thoughts from the homily...

Fr. Denis

Edgar Reitz, the German film director, tells the story of how he went home with a friend to visit his mother and while they were there his mother told a story he had never heard before. The story was of a man from their town who had left his house one day, saying he was going up the road to the local inn for a drink, but he never returned home, and no one ever heard of him again.



Reitz was intrigued by the story because he was interested in what would make someone leave home without telling anyone, and what would keep such a person from ever coming back. He was interested in what makes people leave the place they belong to, and what makes some of them come back. Why do some people leave home never to return? What draws some people back – if only to rediscover why they left?

Reitz decided to make a film on the theme. He called it *Heimat*, which means 'homeland', and it lasts for 15 hours and 36 minutes! The film is a chronicle of one family and one small village in Germany from 1919 until 1982. One of its many appeals is how it depicts the great sense of belonging the people have in the small village of Schabbach, when they are born into a place their family have lived for generations. They are born into a particular

memory that associates them with people and places and little stories. They are able to call on all this, which gives them a sense of belonging, and a hold over their identity. The film shows how, in the passage of time, that sense of belonging slowly disappears.

But no matter how far people travel from home perhaps there is always some hope that they can go back. As the poet Robert Frost wrote:

Home is the place where, when you have to go there,

They have to take you in.

We all need a place to belong to and people we can call our own. Usually we call that 'home', where you are accepted in love for who you are, but also encouraged to *become* the person you could be. Perhaps the last people to accept our changes are those who live with us; they're so used to the old ways they can't believe in real change.

Jesus had to leave home to become the person His Father wanted Him to be. He couldn't rely on His own folk to foster His new life and new mission. So, He established a community, a body of people, who would recognise, as St Paul says, their need of each other. That's us. We're home for each other, pledged to support the growing life of the Spirit in each of us. In this gathering here, everyone should feel welcome, and everyone should have the freedom to grow. Welcome home.



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.