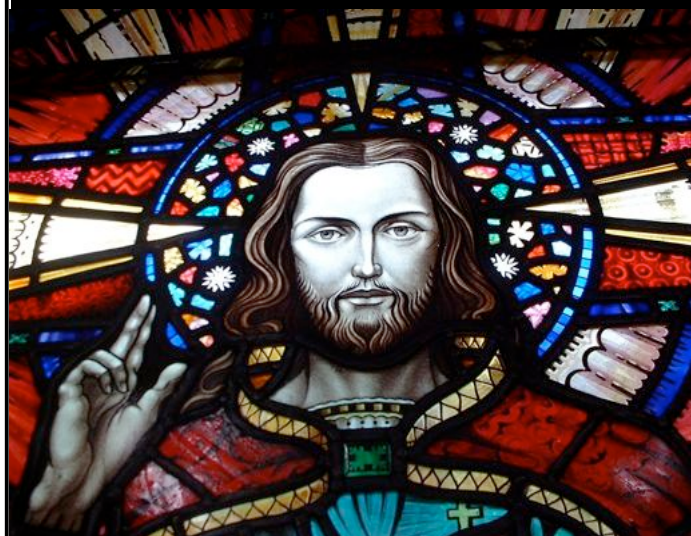


newsletter



26th & 27th December 2009

The Feast of the Holy Family 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 26 th December	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Ampthill	Private Intentions
Sunday 27 th December	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
	11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Peggy McGuigan, RIP
	5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday 28 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Tuesday 29 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Jim Brophy, RIP
Wednesday 30 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Deceased Barnett Family
Thursday 31 st December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Deceased Aylward Family
Friday 1 st January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Denis Clack, RIP
Saturday 2 nd January	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions

Fr. Denis writes...

When it comes to Christmas we all have our family traditions, from the people we visit, to the time for Christmas dinner. Often, this is determined by family members travelling home, or having to work for half a day and so on. Some families open their presents after the midnight Mass, others in the morning. I even heard of one family who wait until 6th January.

The Feast of the Holy Family is an important reminder of what Christmas is about. We give thanks for the gift of families. It is where we first encounter love and affection, where

we discover what it means to be supported and accepted. It is where we first learnt of the Faith and experienced God's love for us through our parents. As we prepare to welcome the New Year we build on the good. This will be possible if we welcome God into our lives, and try to share and live His message.



A Reflection by Fr. Denis

I would like to share a prayer I read many years ago. I think it has a message for today's celebration. It was written by General Douglas MacArthur. He wrote it in the Philippines during the opening days of the war in the Pacific.



Though it is a prayer for sons,
it is equally appropriate for daughters.
Please pray along with me in silence.

.....
Build me a son, O Lord,
who will be strong enough to know
when he is weak,
brave enough to face himself
when he is afraid [...]

Build me a son
whose wishes will not take the place
of deeds [...]
Lead him, I pray,
Not in the path of ease and comfort,
But under the stress and spur
Of difficulties and challenge.

Let him learn to stand in the storm;
let him learn compassion
for all those who fall.

Build me a son
whose heart is clear,
whose goals will be high;
a son who will master himself
before he seeks to master other men;
who will rejoice into the future,
yet never forget the past.

And after all of these are his,
add, I pray, enough of a sense of humour
so that he may always be serious
yet never take himself too seriously [...]

Then, I his father, will dare to whisper,
'I have not lived in vain.'

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>

Newsletter copy deadline – Tuesday

12.00 midday. Newsletter contact:

Suzanne Yates, email

suz_yates@btinternet.com; telephone
01525 840 661



On the weekend 9th and 10th January we have our usual annual White Flower Collection for the Protection of Unborn Children. Bearing in mind Pope Benedict has argued for the right to life from conception.



I hope you will support this course with generosity.



Parish Charismatic Prayer Group. Our next meeting will be 5th January 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.

CONFIRMATION 2010

Thank you to the parishioners, who have come forward to assist with Confirmation preparation, and to the young people who have put their names forward for preparation.

If you have not already done so, there is still time.

If you are school year 8+ and would like to be confirmed in 2010 then give Canon Denis a note with your name, age, and contact details as soon as possible.

Preparation sessions are expected to start in January so watch this space for more information.



While in a large department store, an elderly lady enquired about cordless telephones. 'They have a range of about 100 yards,' said the salesman. 'Oh, no, that's no good,' said the woman, 'I've got relations in Australia.'

Tea and Talk



Our next meeting will be on 4th January, 2010 at Marian Eddleman's house, 15 Eagle Drive, Flitwick, 2.00 – 4.00 pm.

After her husband's death in Canada in 1660, Barbe d'Ailleboust with the help of the Jesuit Fr. Chaumonot, founded the Confraternity of the Holy Family. The confraternity and devotion to the Holy Family spread all over Canada promoting good morals. Monsignor François de Laval invited her to Quebec, and gave her the management of the confraternity, which still exists. In 1675, now Bishop, de Laval had a book printed in Paris instructing the members of the confraternity on virtuous practices. He established the Feast of The Holy Family, and had a mass and office drawn up which are proper to the Diocese of Quebec. The feast was later added in 1921 to the general calendar of the Western Rite as a measure to counteract family breakdown.



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 and drivers for next week, 26th and 27th December.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Suzanne Yates	Bea Cheshire	C. or H. Davies
2 nd Reader	Angela Bartlett	Eamonn Diver	Dennis Horner
Eucharistic		Rincon	Clare Bevan
Driver		David Linda	

Readers and drivers for next week, 2nd and 3rd January.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Sue Barley	Tom Eastwood	Lawton
2 nd Reader	Adrian Hamilton	Marion McClurg	Ros Penn
Eucharistic		Margaret Gummery	Noreen Weighell
Driver		Brendan Spillane	

Thoughts from the homily

Fr. Denis

They are a day's journey on the road home from Jerusalem when they discover that He is missing. You and I wonder why it took them so long to discover this. The reason is simple. When a family, and the



extended family, travelled on treks to Jerusalem it was just one small part of a large caravan or convoy. When Mary and Joseph can't find Jesus among their own relatives or in the convoy, they go back to Jerusalem in search of

Him. They find Him in the temple 'sitting among the teachers, asking questions'. He is not lecturing the doctors of the law and showing them up with His divine brilliance, as we might piously think, but learning from them. They are the experts in God's law, and the boy Jesus wants to know all about it. Yet they are amazed at the calibre of the questions asked by this boy of twelve.

Mary says, 'Your father and I have been looking for You anxiously.' He answers, 'Did you not realise that I must be in my Father's house?' These words need not be

taken as a slight to His mother or a put-down of Joseph, His foster-father; instead, they reflect Jesus' realisation that God is His Father, and uniquely so. One gets the feeling that Jesus also discovered, while in His Father's house, a new depth of delight in God's law. He wanted the temple doctors to tell Him everything about it because He delighted in it, and because He had intimations that He was born into this world 'not to destroy the law but to fulfil it'. (Mt 5:17) He discovered, in His Father's house, His vocation as one of service to, and ministry with, the word of God.

You and I are formed by the home we come from and by this house of God, our parish church, which we attend weekly or even daily. We wish the same fashioning of home and house of God on our children.



So, today, we challenge ourselves to keep on providing the best home we possibly can for our children and cherish them with our love. We accept that there will be anxious moments, as Mary and Joseph discovered in regard to their own child.



Sunday Parking



Please park with consideration for our neighbours. The Sunday before last during 11.00 am Mass one of the residents could not get the car out, and had to miss an appointment. Also, we need to keep the entrance to the car park free in the event of an emergency (ambulance etc.). We realise that the car park is small, and we appreciate your cooperation.