

newsletter



28th & 29th November 2009

The first Sunday of Advent 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.

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Tel: 01525 715 109 www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Times of Mass



Saturday 28 th November	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Ampthill	Holy Souls
Sunday 29 th November	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Sybil Wheeler, RIP
	11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Canon Frank Duane, RIP
	5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday 30 th November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Holy Souls
Tuesday 1 st December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Canon Frank Duane, RIP
Wednesday 2 nd December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Thursday 3 rd December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Derick Rathbone, RIP
Friday 4 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Saturday 5 th December	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions

A Reflection by Fr. Denis

In the dark days of midwinter, through the bleak mornings and evenings that might encapsulate our existence in more than just physical sense, the season of Advent calls us from our malaise and asks us not only to repent but also to wake up and see things as they truly are. It is no mistake that the Gospel readings of Advent have little to do with waiting for a child in a manger, for that is just one aspect of what we wait for, among many. Instead, they refer to waiting for Christ in the truest sense: in all ways because He is all things.

If we were simply awaiting a child in a manger then we would only be partaking in the re-enactment of an event long ago, in a time far away, something foreign. Yet what the reality of the incarnation teaches is that God is not something far away or foreign, He is close and the Gospel is Good News for those whom God has created. Advent points our minds beyond time, asking us to stand with the destitute shepherds, the eccentric Baptist and the fearful disciples in anticipating God.

Fr. Denis writes

I have kept a diary since 1951. It is interesting to look back on it, and remember people, places and events. On 3rd December 1984, I preached in All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard. I was invited to speak about Mother Julian of Norwich. In the late 1300s, Julian was very ill, and she believed that death was near. As she was recovering, she had several messages, or insights, from Jesus. She wrote down for others what she experienced. For example,

*'God shows me a little thing,
the size of a hazelnut,
in the palm of my hand...
looked at with my mind's eye
and I thought:
"What can this be?"*

And an answer came:

"It represents all that is made."



*I marvelled that it could continue to exist
because I thought
that it would have crumbled to nothing,
it was so small.*

*And the answer came into my mind
"It exists and always will
because God loves it."*

*All things have their being
through the love of God.*

*In this little thing I saw three truths:
the first is that God made it;
the second is that God loves it;
the third is that God looks after it.'*

Mother Julian of Norwich (as she is generally known) was making the point that God has made all things, that He loves all that He has made, and that in His love He looks after all that He has made.

She also wrote, in God's love
*'all shall be well
and all manner of things
shall be well.'*

Offertory Collections - For 21st and 22nd November, the collection was £591.49 and the second collection from the week before was £235.83 for retired and sick clergy. Thank you, Fr Denis.

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

The Return of the Giving Tree

It's the First Sunday of Advent and the Giving Tree is back. Once again the SVP is looking for support for the *Bedford Concern Homeless and Rootless Day Centre*. You may have read in the local press that the Centre has been under threat of closure but has secured financial backing and is safe for the time being.



However it still requires your help and support and this year we are asking you once again to take as many of the stickers as you can afford and then donate the named articles. There is no need to wrap them, simply put them in the box in the church porch. Ampthill will again have its own tree.

We require men's pants, socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, disposable razors, small bars of chocolate, tins of tuna and corned beef, biscuits and teabags and coffee. Baked beans are always needed.

It would be helpful if all donations could be handed in by Monday 14th December.

Choir

Practice will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 1st, 8th and 15th December. New members always welcome. We will be rehearsing for the Christmas Carol Service to be held on 20th December.



Parish Management Group
10th December at 7.30 pm.
Several of our members have had to leave due to other commitments so we have some free places and would welcome anyone joining.
Only 4 meetings a year.



Tea and Talk

Will be held on Monday 30th November from 2.00 pm at Sacred Heart Church Hall Flitwick. Newcomers are welcome.



7.00 pm on 20th December. This is a traditional carol service where you get to sing all your favourite carols.

Church Cleaning will be on 22nd December at 7.30 pm – all welcome. Training and equipment provided!



Charismatic Prayer



Group meets to praise God and to pray for our intentions. For more information please contact Helen Burgess: 01525 405 823. Our next meeting will be on 1st December 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm.

Planned Giving Officer

After many years of dedicated service Bill Kosh's work commitments mean that he has to hand over the baton. Very many thanks Bill for all your work. We now need a replacement for Bill. The job entails arranging the distribution of envelopes and some paperwork. Anyone interested would he/she please contact Hugh Davies on 01525 403 102 or Fr. Denis.

Reminder

Readers and drivers for next week, 28th November and 29th November.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Christine Jackson	Darren Campbell	Una McAlinden
2 nd Reader	Suzanne Yates	Gerard Kerrigan	M. or N. Lawton
Eucharistic		John Flanagan	Noreen Weighell
Driver		David Linda	

Readers and drivers for next week, 5th and 6th December.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Adrian Hamilton	Dee Brady	Judith Latham
2 nd Reader	Mary Brown	Marion McClurg	Margaret Gummery
Eucharistic		M. Stynes	Grace McKenna
Driver			T. or B. Basterfield

Thoughts from the homily

Fr. Denis

Occasionally we meet them: people who seem to breeze through life no matter what fortune or fate brings their way. Whatever the pressure of life, they seem to carry on with effortless ease. They never seem troubled by doubt or oppressed by misfortune. Somehow they don't seem particularly anxious about the state of the world, or what the future might hold. Sometimes we wonder whether they have secret inner resources which enable them to cope. In a more suspicious mood we might wonder whether they are really sleep-walking through life, unaware of what is happening around them.

On the other hand we find ourselves all too aware of the large muddle of the world and the little muddle of our own lives. There are times when the sheer scale of the world's problems and our own overwhelms us and we wonder whether we can do anything to change the future. So, why bother? In the end there is the danger that we fall sick of the palsy of despair. We are so small, our systems are so unwieldy, the world is so complex, that all our efforts seem wasted. We scramble for a last picnic before nuclear winter engulfs us.

Or we sit in the company of the woman from

Harlem who was interviewed about her 'prospects'. Looking out of her slum dwelling she said: 'Nothing will change here. The future happens somewhere else. Always somewhere else.'

In today's Gospel, Luke gives us the last address of Jesus' public ministry. And Jesus is clearly fretful about the future as he paints a bleak picture of the end of the world. There is talk of nations in agony, of bewilderment, of people dying of fear, of the power which menaces the world. It is a nightmare view of total disaster which 'will come down on every living man on the face of the earth.'

Given the vision of ultimate collapse it is hardly surprising that, as Jesus anticipates, it might lead people to drink! Being sober and awake might not seem very attractive in the face of such catastrophe. Nightmares are bad experiences we usually wake up from, not experiences we stay awake for. Yet that is Jesus' advice: 'Stay awake, praying all the time for the strength to survive all that is going to happen.' But, why stay awake? What is there to stay awake for?

JESUS AND HIS LIFE.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



5th DECEMBER 1.30 pm–4.00 pm

SACRED HEART CHURCH FLITWICK

Next Saturday is our Christmas Bazaar in aid of the facilities fund.

After Mass today you will be able to collect a '*Fistful of Flyers*' for distribution to your friends and neighbours. Do encourage as many to come along as possible. This is our first Christmas Bazaar for many years; so let's really try to pull together to make it an enjoyable and worthwhile event!

CAFOD VIRTUAL VILLAGE COMPLETED!

Congratulations! With the final donation of £245 raised from the sponsored walk and private donations we have been able to pay to train a teacher and we have now met all our targets for the Virtual Village. During 2009, thanks to many individual efforts, donations and the collective response from the Parish £2500 was raised and sent to CAFOD to build our Virtual Village. Please keep the work of CAFOD in your prayers.