

newsletter



30th and 31st January 2010

The 4th 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	30 th January	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Amphill	Bertha Clews, RIP
Sunday	31 st January	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Margaret & Patrick Gibbons, RIP
		11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Geraldo Patela, RIP
		5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday	1 st February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	John Berry, RIP
Tuesday	2 nd February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Stanislaw Mapyewski, RIP
Wednesday	3 rd February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Una & William, RIP
Thursday	4 th February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Intentions of Betty Mahony
Friday	5 th February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Catie O'Connell, RIP
Saturday	6 th February	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions

A Reflection by Fr. Denis

The harsh reality of the Nazareth experience seems a world away from Paul's description of love in today's second reading; 'Love is always patient and kind: it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and it is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes'.



comes' can be seen in Jesus' whole ministry. If love is always patient and kind, it has to face impatience and unkindness. If love is always ready to excuse, it has to face those who are prompt to condemn. If love takes no pleasure in other people's sins, then it has to face those who delight in the weaknesses of others.

Love has a tough programme. We know this from experience. But what else can meet rejection with such endurance and greatness?

The quality of love 'to endure whatever

Fr. Denis writes ...

Last wills and testaments sometimes succeed in their intentions; they sometimes do not. Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, directed that his property be sold and the proceeds invested. To this day, this has guaranteed the different Nobel prizes for service to humanity. The Lebanese poet,



Khalil Gibran, left the royalties of his books to his native village. His writings had earned him little, but in the years that followed his death their phenomenal success led to bitter division among the beneficiaries. Eventually the Lebanese government had to assume management of the estate.

It could be said that in Deuteronomy 30:19, we have the last will and testament of Moses. He has reached the end of his days and his words are of special importance. He has no human witnesses to this testament. Instead Moses calls upon heaven and earth – such is the magnitude of what he is saying to his people. Their future with the God of The Covenant depends on the choices they make. These could not be clearer, 'Life or death, blessing or curse'. The whole history of Israel will be shaped by the choices they make. Each day, we face choices. Often, people think these choices, especially in the light of faith, are difficult. We might think of the choices Jesus made on our behalf, and take courage from Him.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS will meet at 80 George St., Maulden at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9th February. Come pray for family and friends and hear Our Lord answer our prayers as we put all into His hands. Ring Sue on 01525 634 186



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>

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 7th February. New members are



Newsletter copy deadline – Tuesday midday.

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

Offertory Collection for 23rd and 24th January was £615.51 and £26.00 for the building fund. Thank you. Fr. Denis.



Haiti Disaster

Along with many relief organisations, CAFOD is launching an appeal to all parishes. This weekend, 30th and 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.



Tea and Talk

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



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.



Parish Charismatic Prayer Group

meets regularly to praise God for His blessings and to pray for our intentions. For information contact Helen Burgess: 01525 405 823. Our next meeting will be on 2nd February from 8.00 – 9.30 pm.

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 we 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.

LUMOS: ON FIRE

Over the weekend of 5th – 7th February a number of our young people and adults will be at the Diocesan youth event in Northampton. Please keep them and all the young people in your prayers for a fulfilling and spirit-filling weekend.



The AGM of the Parish Management Group will be held on 4th February at 7.30 pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend. The main items on the agenda will be the achievements of the PMG since it began and the election of new members and a new chair.

Reminder

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	

Readers and drivers for next week, 6th and 7th February.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Charles Waterford	Siobhan Campbell	Noelette Hanley
2 nd Reader	Judith Latham	Margaret Gummery	Ros Penn
Eucharistic	Sue Barley	Carlos Rincon	Tony Davis
Eucharistic	Pat King	Tom Eastwood	Anne Gadsden
Driver			T. & B. Basterfield

Thoughts from the homily...

The Greek philosopher, Diogenes, was regarded by many who knew him as a somewhat eccentric teacher, not least for his belief that virtue consisted in the avoidance of all physical pleasures, that pain and inconvenience were conducive to goodness. When Alexander the Great visited Diogenes in Corinth, the philosopher was living in a large earthenware tub in one of the city suburbs. Few people could accept either his teachings or his way of life. Diogenes was once noticed begging from a statue. When someone asked him the reason for this pointless conduct, he replied: 'I am exercising the art of being rejected.'



Diogenes experienced plentiful rejection in his time; whether he ever became accustomed to being rebuffed remains an open question. In today's Gospel we see how Jesus, after preaching in the synagogue in Nazareth, is rejected by His own townspeople. Some of them are awed by His gracious words, while others are more concerned about His pedigree and address. The neighbours of Jesus are no different from any neighbours. Jesus, for all His mission to mankind, still has to face local suspicion, gossip, behind-the-curtain omniscience, experts in character demolition, locals who believe that nothing special can emerge from the

neighbourhood without their spotting it first. Prophets are accepted provided that they come from the backwoods; there is nothing so unpromising as the 'local' backwoods.

Jesus accepts from experience that a prophet is not accepted in his own country. He is not free from local prejudice, He is not above the normal, haphazard way that people look at other people and events. People get tangled in His roots; they cannot see the tree for the roots. They complain that Jesus performs no local wonders while at the same time letting Him know that they disbelieve in Him anyway. When Jesus tells His own people that His mission is addressed to all people, they become angry.



Jesus refuses to share their small-mindedness, their meanness of vision. He will play no part of their pettiness. In responding to His neighbours, Jesus makes it clear that He is not going to live down to their expectations.

Like many groups, the neighbours want Jesus to be different in the same way that they are different. They expect Jesus to share the same exclusive outlook as themselves – as R.D. Laing observed, 'Sanity is a matter of having the same diseases as everyone else'.

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.



Valentine's Dinner in aid of the Facilities Fund

Come and join us for a three-course dinner on Saturday 13th February 2010 at 7.30 pm at Sacred Heart Church Flitwick.

To reserve your table please contact Michael on 01525 713 763.

Places are £10.00 per head inclusive of soft drinks (you are welcome to bring your own wine).