

newsletter



7th /8th November 2009

The 32nd Sunday of Year B



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 715109 www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

Times of Mass



Saturday 7 th November	6.00 pm	St Andrew's Ampthill	Private Intentions
Sunday 8 th November	9.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
	11.00 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
	5.00 pm	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions – Latin Mass
Monday 9 th November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	In Thanksgiving
Tuesday 10 th November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Angelo Fabi, RIP
Wednesday 11 th November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions
Thursday 12 th November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Con Herlihy, RIP
Friday 13 th November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Intentions of Gadsden and Thomas Families
Saturday 14 th November	9.30 am	Sacred Heart Church	Private Intentions

Fr. Denis writes

Every city has its distinctive landmarks. One of Istanbul's surely is Hagia Sophia, at one time a church and, since the 15th century, a mosque. Many people assume that the building was dedicated to a saint called Sophia. In fact it's original name in Greek means 'Holy Wisdom'. The theme of divine wisdom was found in the Greek Mass that was once celebrated there. Before and after the reading of the Gospel, the Deacon would announce, 'Hear the Holy Wisdom of these words'.

Wisdom is a common theme also in Scripture. For example, we find it in the opening passage of St James. Given Israel's tradition of wisdom

writing, one would expect this from such an Epistle. Wisdom is seen as a gift from God, in order to lead, guide and bless. It is not the wisdom of Confucius, for example, it is a wisdom which is from God and His Word.

We are not born wise. We acquire wisdom over the years. Often, this means learning from our mistakes. In a sense it means 'unlearning' with the help of God's grace. There is a difference too, between knowledge and wisdom.

Knowledge means knowing that a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

At every Mass we pray for wisdom, to know God's message from the readings, and to be able to put this wisdom into our words and deeds.

A Reflection by Fr. Denis

Someone once said
that there are three
kinds of givers:
grudge givers,
duty givers
and thanks givers.



Grudge givers say, 'I hate to give.'
Duty givers say, 'I ought to give.'
Thanks givers say, 'I want to give.'

In other words
grudge givers give reluctantly
and with a certain feeling of resentment.

Duty givers give reluctantly too,
but with a certain feeling of obligation.

Thanks givers, on the other hand,
give from the heart, without any feeling
of resentment or obligation.

The three widows
are beautiful examples of thanks givers.

They gave under no pressure.
They gave under no obligation.
They gave from the heart.

We ask for a flower,
and God gives us a bouquet.

We ask for a leaf,
and God gives us a tree.

We ask for a drop of water,
and God gives us an ocean.

We ask for a grain of sand
and God gives us a beach.

We ask for a blade of wheat,
and God gives us a wheat-field.

We ask for something to eat,
and we are given God's own body and blood.

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.

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

Meets every Friday 10.15 – 11.45 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

The church newsletter is available online from the website
<http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk>

Tea and Talk

Will be held on Monday 16th November from 2.00 pm at Sacred Heart Church Hall Flitwick. Newcomers are welcome.



To raise funds for our Building Project, *The Barton Angels* will sing 'The Gift' by Graham Kendrick on Friday November 27th. More details later.

SVP Collection



The SVP will be holding their annual retiring collection this weekend 7th/8th November. The money will be used to support those in need in the parish and to help them meet their commitment to their overseas projects such as their sponsorship of 4 students in India, their support of an SVP conference in southern India and the baby-feeding programme in Sudan.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Pre-Communion Group.

The group is for 5 to 7-ish-year-olds and meets in the Church on Sunday mornings from 9.45 am to 10.30 am.

The next meeting is 15th November.

New members are always welcome.



14th/15th November

Retiring Collection for Sick and Retired Clergy Fund. This year seven of our priests will be retiring – two have retired already. This collection is the main source of income towards the Fund and we would ask you to give generously. Some of the retired priests are in poor health and most have given over forty years of service to the Church.



Parish Charismatic Prayer Group

meets regularly to praise God for His blessings and to pray for our intentions. If you would like more information please contact Helen Burgess: 01525 405 823.

Our next meeting will be on 17th November 2009 from 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm.

MOTHER PRAYERS

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, 10th November** at 7.30 pm at 80 George St., Maulden. Please ring Sue on 01525 634 186 for more information.



THE PICTURE HOUSE CHARITY CINEMA

7.00 pm Friday 20th Nov.

Into Great Silence ...

... a documentary on monastic life to be shown at

Tads Theatre, Conger Lane Toddington.

Tickets are available through all local Churches or at the door.

(No entrance fee, but there will be a collection for charity.)

Some tickets available from Don Perrett and Noreen Glover

Cake Stall



Our next cake stall for the Healing Weekend is this Sunday 8th November after 9.00 am Mass. Our last Cake Stall on 10th October raised £107.00.

Thank you to everyone.

Please see back of Sunday Plus for information on Confirmation 2010 and Healing Weekend

Reminder

Readers and drivers for this week, 7th November and 8th November.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Charles Waterford	Mary Bray	Felicity Detemple
2 nd Reader	Christopher McMellon	Dermott Whelan	Anne Gadsden
Eucharistic		Carlos Rincon	Tony Davis
Driver			John Gallagher

Readers and drivers for next week, 14th November and 15th November.

Mass	6.00 pm - Ampthill	9.00 am - Flitwick	11.00 am - Flitwick
1 st Reader	Michael Ita	Dennis Horner	Noelette Hanley
2 nd Reader	Joel Ita	Bea Cheshire	John Gallagher
Eucharistic		Tom Eastwood	Clare Bevan
Driver			

Thoughts from the homily

Fr. Denis

Hugo Black, US politician and Supreme Court justice, was attending the funeral of a dignitary whom he had heartily disliked and whose funeral he would have happily avoided had it not been expected of him. The service began with the invocation of God's blessing on the deceased, then the priest thanked God for gracing the deceased with so many gifts throughout his distinguished life. While this was happening, another judge, arriving late, tiptoed into his place next to Justice Black and whispered, 'How far has the service got?' Black whispered back, 'They have just opened for the defence.'



The dignitaries in today's Gospel need more than a defence counsel, for Jesus is putting His case for the prosecution. The scribes were expert lawyers, who interpreted and applied the written Law through a complicated system of traditions. They were respected teachers, both in the schools and the courts, and had become accustomed to the honour shown to them by ordinary people. Many of them were devoted and selfless scholars, anxious to save people from transgressing the Law; others were ambitious for their own advancement, anxious only for their vanity to be satisfied. It is the latter group that Jesus confronts in today's Gospel. He reverses the roles: the lawyers become the accused.

Jesus makes a series of charges against the scribes. He criticises their habit of wearing distinctive dress, which marks them as different from others and is calculated to win people's deference. He criticises their habit of taking the places of honour at religious and civil functions. He criticises their habit of long-winded prayers,

made not to God but to their immediate audience. Finally, He denounces their practice of exploiting helpless widows by living off their savings. Jesus says that religious leaders who behave like this will face a more severe sentence than the sinners they readily condemn.

The story of the widow's generosity is well placed in this stage of Mark's Gospel. The poor widow typifies what Jesus will do himself – give everything as an offering to God. When Jesus is finished giving, there will be nothing left for Him to give. He gives His all. That is the reality of His piety.

Jesus hopes that His own disciples will take their cue from that example of real piety, not from the scribes hungry for status and honour. He hopes that we, His followers, will be equally generous with our resources. Those resources are not always measured in money. We are called to give of our time, our talent, our understanding. We are asked to give not just from our abundance but from our substance. That kind of giving always hurts, because we all feel spent after it. Like the widow, we might feel that we have nothing more to give; but it's that kind of giving that counts with Jesus.

Every day demands are made on us. We are called on to be generous with our love, our forgiveness, our patience, our resources. And the Good News is that when we do that out of love, Jesus will be our constant support. No matter who the prosecuting counsel turns out to be when our case comes up, Jesus will be leading for the defence.

Offertory Collections

For 31st October and 1st November, the collection was £ 622.27. Thank you, Fr Denis.

Sorry an error was made last week

Newsletter deadline **THIS WEEK ONLY:**

Sunday 3.00 pm Newsletter contact: Suzanne

Yates, email suz_yates@btinternet.com or

telephone 01525 840 661