

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

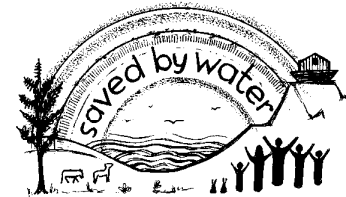
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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2018

When I gather the clouds over the earth  
and the bow appears in the clouds I will  
recall the Covenant between myself & you.

**DAILY MASS-WEEK 18th February 2018**

Sunday	9.00am	Brigid McDonald's Ints
	5.15pm	Elaine Cousins Decd.
Monday	9.30am	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION
Tuesday	9.30am	Elaine Hyde's Ints (SVP)
Wednesday	7.30pm	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION
Thursday	9.30am	Veronica Caperon Decd.
Friday	9.30am	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION.
Saturday	11.00am	Mr. Seigel Decd.

CONFESSION Saturday 10.30—10.55am  
After Sunday Mass during Lent.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
Wednesday 7.00—7.25pm  
Friday 10.00—12Noon

**DIARY:**

SUNDAY 18TH & ALL SUNADYS DURING LENT — Stations of the Cross 4.00pm

FRIDAY : Prayers for Vocations—10.00am—12Noon with Exposition.

SATURDAYS IN LENT 12.30pm LENT LUNCHESS —SHEFFORD COMMUNITY HALL

SVP Meetings: Contact Ian Cousins for details: 07526 753 986

FINANCE MATTERS: Last week's Collection—£ 300 + £89 S/Os.

SVP Appeal £307. Thank you.

**DIOCESAN YEAR OF PRAYER AND VOCATION,  
REFLECTION PRAYER  
(based on the Gospel )**

*Faithful God, your Son, Jesus of Nazareth ,  
He spoke the truth with authority  
and you confirmed his teaching by wondrous deeds.  
Through his healing presence,  
Drive far from us all that is unholy,  
So that by word and deed we may proclaim him  
Messiah and Lord and bear witness to your power to heal and save.*

**SUNDAY LITURGY**

<b>HYMNS: ENTRANCE</b>	<b>LEAD US. HEAVENLY FATHER</b>	<b>351</b>
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<b>THIS IS MY BODY</b>	<b>730</b>
<b>COMMUNION</b>	<b>A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION</b>	
<b>RECESSION</b>	<b>O GOD OF EARTH AND ALTAR</b>	<b>527 (tune 535)</b>

**FIRST READING Genesis 9: 8—15**

*God's covenant with Noah after he had saved him from the waters of the Flood.*

**PSALM RESPONSE: YOUR WAYS, LORD, ARE FAITHFULNESS AND LOVE  
FOR THOSE WHO KEEP YOUR COVENANT.**

**SECOND READING : 1 Peter 3: 18—22**

*That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAIM: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY! MAN DOES  
NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT FROM EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE  
MOUTH OF GOD. PRAISE TO YOU , O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY !**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1 :12—15**

*Jesus was tempted by Satan and the angels looked after him*

**THE DEEP END — OPERATION TRANSFORMATION.**

The first Sunday of Lent—I love Lent, it's a great season where we can get into 'transformation' mode. Regardless of whether or not someone is still 'practicing' their faith, people still seem to get on board with Lent. We usually give something up, but remember it is not simply weight loss or getting fit. By doing these things we are trying to make room for something deeper. It's a spring cleaning sort of time. What needs cleaning out in my life, so that I can make more room for God? Or often do we need to make more room for what God has planned for us? We can get stuck, especially when we are comfortable and don't really want too much to change. But without change we can't grow and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. So lent might be a time where in giving something up or taking on something, we make space for something new. The gospel today is short and sweet— Jesus is sent into the desert and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space and we should not be afraid because as the gospel tells us clearly today, it is a Spirit led desert. God is with us in this desert. So enjoy Lent embrace it. How we make use of this time determines what will be.

Jane Mellett

**TODAY : STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 4.00pm**

## Looking ahead to Holy Week.

Lent is the special Season when the Church gives us the opportunity to deepen our Catholic Faith. It is a season of amazing possibilities for grace.

We had an excellent start to Lent with a full Church for the Ash Wednesday Mass and a great turnout also for the Evening Ashes. Deo Gratias. Well done everyone who was able to make it..... especially on the cold and miserable evening.

Looking ahead- we will all be effected by the Parish having to share me with Biggleswade- especially in Holy Week. I am hoping that Parishioners at both here at St Francis and at St Peter's Biggleswade here can share my services during Holy Week.

I hope to do the Holy Thursday Mass here (8pm) plus Watching until Midnight. Then I hope to do the Easter Vigil at St Peter's, Biggleswade (8pm Saturday). Good Friday is easy because Deacon Peter Hyde can lead the Afternoon Liturgy (3pm) here at Shefford while I am at St Peter's (3pm).

## 24 Hours for The Lord.

Pope Francis wants each Parish to make a special effort for his initiative "*24 Hours for The Lord*" on the weekend of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March/Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. He wants special emphasis on making Confession available. In his Pastoral Letter, last weekend, Bishop Peter asked every Parish to mark the Occasion.

I am hoping that we can have Exposition on that Friday evening (March 9<sup>th</sup>) from 4p.m until 12 Midnight. We hope to begin with Evening Prayer. I will hear Confession from 10pm until 12 Midnight.

I hope too that you will be able to commit yourself to an hour of Watching between 4 and Midnight. Please put your name on the List in our Porch.

## The Legion of Mary

is as near to Shefford as Bedford is!

They meet each Tuesday 7.30p.m. Christ the King Church Cabin.

All practising Catholics, aged 18+, are invited. If you desire involvement but cannot make Meetings you can become an Auxiliary Member.

Contact details: Chris on 07962 426 572 or [cnorfolk6@gmail.com](mailto:cnorfolk6@gmail.com)

## Ray Stakemire RIP:

yes, our dear Ray has been called to eternity (at the age of 90)- on Ash Wednesday.

## CAFOD

Next Friday is the Lenten Fast Day for CAFOD and there will be a second Collection for the appeal next Sunday. In light of the media revelations this week CAFOD has issued the following statement : ( copy of the statement also on Notice in the Porch.

Dear Father

I wanted to share our sorrow at the recent revelations in the media about the sexual misconduct of some people working in poor countries and to reassure you about CAFOD's approach to this behaviour.

## [Here is our response to the news reports](#)

At CAFOD all our policies and procedures are directed at ensuring we have zero tolerance of abuse of any kind. Poor and vulnerable people are the centre of our work and they often live in the most difficult and violent situations. Here, even the strongest of policies and practices may not stop abuses happening and in such cases we will act quickly and transparently, always with the welfare of vulnerable people coming first.

In line with the worldwide Church we take safeguarding very seriously and share our skills with the Holy See, Bishops' Conferences and other Caritas agencies around the world, especially on child protection issues.

Finally, can I ask you to keep in your prayers all those who have been affected by this situation especially those vulnerable individuals in Haiti and other countries around the world who have not been afforded the dignity and care they deserve.

Yours in Christ,

Chris Bain, CAFOD Director

Please give generously next week. Every £ that is contributed up to £5M will be matched £ for £ by the government. Envelopes are available in the porch should you be able to Gift Aid your donation. The appeal will stay open until the end of Lent, should you wish to give further almsgiving to the charity.