

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
25 High Street, Shefford. SG17 5DD

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2018
Abraham took the ram and offered it as a
burnt offering in place of his son.
(Genesis 22:13)

DAILY MASS-WEEK 25th February 2018

Sunday	9.00am	Brigid McErlean Decd Gayle Askern Decd
	5.15pm	Nora Dunne Decd. Ray Stakemire Decd (SVP)
Monday	9.30am	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION
Tuesday	9.30am	Jeremy & Rachel Tasker's Ints.
Wednesday	7.30pm	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION
Thursday	9.30am	Seigle Family's Ints.
Friday	9.30am	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION.
Saturday	11.00am	Tasker Family's Ints.

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Wednesday 7.00—7.25pm

DIARY:

ALL SUNADYS DURING LENT — Stations of the Cross 4.00pm

TUESDAY: UCM MEETING 7.30pm in Angela Room

THURSDAY: CONFIRMATION CLASS in Angela Room—6.30pm—7.45pm

SATURDAY: FATIMA DEVOTIONS 10.00am Followed by Confession & Mass

UCM RETREAT DAY: 10.00am Fatima devotions (as above) followed
By Spiritual Reflections. (See page 3 for further details.)

SATURDAYS IN LENT 12.30pm LENT LUNCHESS —SHEFFORD COMMUNITY HALL

MONDAY 5th: Prayer Group 8.00pm in Sacristy

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

FINANCE MATTERS: Last week's Collection—£ 592 + £89 S/Os.

DIOCESAN YEAR OF PRAYER AND VOCATION, REFLECTION PRAYER

Ever faithful God, you were well pleased with Abrahams' obedience

You accepted the sacrifice of your own Son.

Train us by Christ's teaching and school us in his obedience

That as we walk his way of sacrifice

We may share in your glory.

SUNDAY LITURGY

HYMNS: ENTRANCE	CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS	139
OFFERTORY	BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD	72
COMMUNION	A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION	
RECESSION	IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE	301

FIRST READING Genesis 22: 1-2. 9-13. 15-18.

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

**PSALM RESPONSE: I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD;
IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING**

SECOND READING: Romans 8: 31—34 *God did not spare his own Son.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAIM: GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, FROM THE BRIGHT CLOUD
THE FATHER'S VOICE WAS HEARD, "THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED. LISTEN TO HIM!"
GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

GOSPEL: Mark 9: 2—10 *This is my Son, the Beloved.*

THE DEEP END — TRANSFIGURATION

Can you recall a time when you had an 'aha' moment? One of those moments when something makes perfect sense to you. It may have been a long time coming, a combination of various pieces of jigsaw fitting together or it may be an insight you received from prayer or spiritual practice. These are really special moments. We are never quite the same afterwards, something changes, even a small thing, but in us something changes. These 'aha' moments even moves us outside ourselves or even beyond ourselves in some way. These are moments of transfiguration. This is what is happening to the disciples in today's gospel: a very deep and significant 'aha' moment.

Peter is desperate to stay on the mountain in that blissful moment with Jesus, so much so that he offers to build tents. One can understand Peter's request after such an occurrence of course he would want to stay there. What moments of encounter in your own life do you recall? An encounter where you simply did not want it to end? It may be something very deep and meaningful which gave you a glimpse of God or a moment of complete contentment. As with all blissful moments, the disciples must come down from the mountaintop. Jesus' way involves walking a very different path, a path that will not be so easy. Jesus' way is different to what Peter had in mind. No doubt these moments of transfiguration strengthens us all for walking the more difficult paths.

Jane Mellett

TODAY: SECOND COLLECTION FOR CAFOD LENTEN APPEAL.

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.

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 St Francis and 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 Petrer'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).

Summer Fete Date is Sat June 30th from 1 to 4p.m.

This has been booked for Shefford Community Hall (*booked 10am to 5pm*).

Our first Planning Meeting is on Thursday 22nd March 8pm (Angela Room)

Our second Planning Meeting is on Thursday 26th April 8pm (Angela Room)

Our final Planning Meeting is on Thursday May 31st 8pm (Angela Room).

Christmas Bazaar has also been booked: for Sat Nov 24th.

The Methodist Hall has been booked with access the Day before).

Please stick that very important Date into your Planner.

Lent Course

Each Monday 7pm in Biggleswade (7a Station Rd; SG18 8AL).

This year the annual Lenten Course is on the role that Our Lady plays in the life of the Catholic. It runs on Monday evenings. Coming along will not only enlighten you but also it will help you meet other people and to discuss with them your Faith. It is the same Course as we had here for Advent.

And do not forget that Ecumenically there are Lenten Meetings. Going along to these ecumenical events would be a great way of sharing with your fellow Christians.

Ray Stakemire RIP

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

Funeral arrangements: his mortal remains come into the Church at

6.30pm Monday 12th March.

Requiem Mass Tuesday 13th at 9.30 a.m.

24 Hours for The Lord.

Please put your name on our Watching List.

Pope Francis wants each Parish to make a special effort for his initiative "24 Hours for The Lord" on the weekend of Friday 9th March/Saturday 10th 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 9th) from 4p.m until 12 Midnight. We hope to begin with Evening Prayer. I will hear Confession from *7 until 9pm. (*Last week I published the wrong Confession time here).

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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The first class will be on Thursday 1st March in the Angela Room at St Francis of Assisi, Shefford. Each session will be from 6.30pm until 7.45pm

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

This annual service will be celebrated on this Friday—2nd March. The Service for the Shefford area will be at ALL SAINTS, CAMPTON, @ 2.15pm

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS.

UCM Retreat, Saturday 3rd March 2018,

10am, starting with the Rosary, Confessions and Mass.

Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

For further information please contact Pam 07876744850.

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