

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

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THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2019  
I am running to the finish, for the prize which  
God calls us upward to receive in Christ  
Jesus (Philippians 3:14)

#### DAILY MASS-WEEK 7th April 2019

Sunday	9.00am	Dominic Roberts Ints.
	5.15pm	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION
Tuesday	9.30am	A J Hunting Foundation Mass
Wednesday	7.30pm	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION
Thursday	9.30am	BrownFoundation Mass
Friday	9.30am	SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION
Saturday	11.00am	Special Int.

CONFESSION Saturday 10.30—10.55am  
During Lent— after Sunday Mass

#### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday 7.00—7.25pm  
Friday 10.00—10.30am— Prayers for Vocations

#### DIARY

SUNDAYS DURING LENT—STATIONS OF THE CROSS 4.00pm

TUESDAY: UCM Meeting 7.30pm in Angela Room.

NEXT SUNDAY: MASS WILL BEGIN WITH THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CAR PARK, AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH. (Weather permitting)

FINANCE MATTERS: Last week's Collection—£413 + £90 S/Os.

#### MERCY.

*The quality of mercy is not Strain'd;  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath  
It is twice blest :  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes  
'Tis mightiest in the mighty;  
It becomes the throned monarch better than his crown  
It is enshrined in the hearts of kings.  
It is an attribute of God himself  
And earthy power doth then show likest God's  
When mercy seasons justice.  
Therefore, though justice be thee plea, consider this —  
That in the course of justice none of us should see salvation.  
We do pray for mercy,  
And the same prayer doth teach us all  
To render the deeds of mercy* William Shakespeare.

#### SUNDAY LITURGY.

HYMNS : ENTRANCE	ALL YE WHO SEEK A COMFORT SURE	31
OFFERTORY	I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE	271
COMMUNION	A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION	
RECESSION	GOD IS LOVE	215

FIRST READING : Isaiah 43.16—21

*See, I am doing a new deed, and I will give my chosen people drink.*

PSALM RESPONSE: WHAT MARVELS THE LORD WORKED FOR US  
INDEED WE WERE GLAD.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3. 8—14

Reproducing the pattern of his death, I have accepted the loss of everything for Christ

GOSPEL ACCLAIM: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY. SEEK GOOD AND NOT EVIL SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS MAY REALLY BE WITH YOU. PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY.

GOSPEL. John 8. 1—11.

*If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her*

**THE DEEP END — DON'T LOOK BACK.**

*'No need to look back, no need to think what was done before.*

*See, I am doing a new deed....' (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

*'All I can say is I forget the past and I strain ahead...' (Phil 3:13)*

These poignant words taken from today's first and second readings provide the perfect preamble to our Gospel reading. Perhaps the line that is most quoted from the story of the woman caught in adultery is Jesus' challenge to the crowd who bring her before them: 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' It is a challenge to all of us to look inward before we 'cast stones' to judge others.

But there is another equally powerful statement here by Jesus, this time to the woman herself. It is delivered quietly when she is left alone with Jesus after all her accusers had drifted away: 'Neither do I condemn you. Go away and don't sin any more.' We notice that Jesus doesn't rake over the woman's past. He doesn't ask her about the claims of her accusers. He doesn't condemn or criticise her. Instead he accepts her, loves her, treats her with the respect and dignity that was so lacking in the mob, and gently nudges her forward into a new way of living.

Triana Doherty.

## Lenten Stations of the Cross

During Lent Stations of the Cross will be held each Sunday at 4.00pm. (This week lead by the SVP)

## Lent Lunches every Saturday

**12.30-1.30 pm Shefford Community Hall**

(Opposite the Petrol Station: next to the Fish & Chip Shop).

Do come and join Christians from the other 3 main Churches in Shefford.

## Holy Week and Easter.

Since Father Richard retired, at Biggleswade, we have shared with St Peter's for the Holy Week Ceremonies. Please God the same will happen this year for Holy Week.

**Holy Thursday:** we will have Mass at *Biggleswade* at 8p.m.

**Good Friday:** we have separate Afternoon Ceremony of the Passion at 3p.m. as Deacons are able to lead this Service.

**Holy Saturday:** the Mass of the Easter Vigil will be *here* at St Francis.  
At 8.00pm

## Confessions on Holy Saturday.

Will be from 10.30 am until 11.30 a.m. AND from 6 to 7pm.

## READERS AND SPECIAL MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST

**PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST IN THE PORCH IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO BE A MINISTER ON GOOD FRIDAY OR/AND EASTER SATURDAY**

### SAVE THE DATE:

Roy Shoeman, international speaker, Jewish Catholic is giving a talk on

" The Role of Judaism in Salvation from Abraham to the 2nd Coming"

on Sunday 30th June, at 6.30pm

at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Hall, Castle Street, Luton, LU1 3AG .

Further details nearer the day!!

## CARE OF THE ABUSED.

- When the Bishops of England and Wales gathered in Rome last September for the Ad Limina visit, they committed themselves to the following initiatives in their dioceses.

**Mass for victims and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters at St Mary's in Woburn Sands at 12 noon on 12 October 2019**

All victims and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters are invited to this Mass. The focus will be on healing, reconciliation and the forming of compassionate links with the Church. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

**Individual meetings for victims and survivors, families and supporters with Bishop Peter**

Bishop Peter is offering to meet with victims and survivors, their families and supporters commencing from May 2019 and continuing on a bimonthly basis. For more details or to book a meeting with the Bishop, contact the safeguarding office on: 01604 723514.

## Vacancy Parish Youth Minister – Bedford – Full Time

We are delighted to advertise the role of Catholic Parish Youth Minister in the parishes of Ss Philip and James and Holy Cross, Bedford. This is a rare and exciting opportunity for a practising Catholic, with the right skills and experiences, to support and develop local young people in their faith and relationship with their parish.

Full details of the role can be found by visiting [www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies) or calling the diocesan HR Advisor on 01604 714840. The closing date for applications is 3rd May 2019..

## GOOD FRIDAY SEDER MEAL

On Good Friday, 19th April, Shefford Baptist Church will be hosting a guest from Jews 4 Jesus who will talk us through the Passover Meal and what each stage of the meal symbolises. We will also share a meal together (not the Passover meal).

**When:** Friday 19th April at 7:00pm

**Where:** Shefford Baptist Church

**Cost:** £5 per person

We would like to invite you Canon Bennie, and members of your congregation to join us. To enable us to know how many people we need to cater for, please book a place, by the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 via our website [www.sheffordbaptist.org.uk](http://www.sheffordbaptist.org.uk) under Forthcoming Events or email me at [sbcnimda@gmail.com](mailto:sbcnimda@gmail.com) or telephone me on 07941307228.