

# News from the Catholic Churches of The Holy Child & St Joseph and Our Lady of Ransom

Volume 1 Issue 4

5<sup>th</sup> August 2018

## Services

### St Joseph's:

#### Sunday

#### Masses

8.15 am

9.30 am

11 am

6.30 pm

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### Our Lady's

### Kempston:

#### Sunday

#### Mass

9.30 am

Please see the

weekly

Newsletter for

more Services

and

Information on

a variety of

events at The

Holy Child &

St Joseph

Bedford and

Our Lady's

Kempston.

## Welcome to the Summer issue of our Quarterly Bulletin

### *A word from Canon Seamus*

Now that we have entered upon the holiday season, it may be an opportunity to find time not only to relax with family and friends but also with the Lord in prayer.

Finding time to be with Him will prove a real spiritual tonic, for He promises that all who come to Him will not be turned away but will find rest for our souls. In that moment of encounter we will experience His closeness to us and His healing presence.

To abide in Him in this way is the best therapy because He gives us a peace that the world cannot give, there in the deep self.

So be good to yourself and accept Jesus' invitation to come to Him, to rest in Him.

Various works continue in both parishes, taking advantage of the good weather, so far. When it is finished you won't know the place! Fr Roy continues to settle into his new parish in Buckingham which he refers to as Buckingham Palace! He misses his friends from this parish but is making new ones gradually. Pray for him. Pray, too, that we will soon get a replacement for Fr Roy, as we go to print there is still no news on that front. Happy holidays!

*Canon Seamus.*



Canon Seamus Keenan



**May the heavenly  
nourishment we  
receive we pray O Lord  
transform us into the  
likeness of your Son,  
whose radiant  
splendour you willed to  
make manifest in  
His glorious  
Transfiguration.  
Who lives and reigns  
for ever and ever,  
Amen.**



**We beseech your  
Mercy Lord our God,  
that we who honour  
the Assumption of the  
Mother of God, may be  
freed from every  
threat of harm.  
Through Christ our  
Lord.  
Amen.**

## **OUR TIMES OF THE YEAR**

The Catholic Year starts the First Sunday of Advent. The Church year consists of six liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time after Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time after Pentecost.

Dates of many of the important Christian holidays are related to the dates of Easter – which is moveable. The Catholic Church uses the Gregorian Calendar, the earliest possible date for Easter is March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the latest is April 25<sup>th</sup>. These specified dates though are very rare, the next time Easter Falls on April 25<sup>th</sup> is 2038, the next time March 22<sup>nd</sup> crops up is 2285 – perhaps beyond the presence of quite a few of us to celebrate!

Ordinary Time is the liturgical period that does not fall within the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter, and runs 34 weeks. The Catholic Church celebrates two periods of the year as Ordinary Time. The first period runs from the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord until the Tuesday evening before Ash Wednesday.

### **WHY IS ORDINARY TIME CALLED ORDINARY?**

Because the term ordinary in English most often means something that's not special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant; even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church.

The fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting. Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered.

The Latin word Ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word order. So the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church - the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ. The season and month are characterized and given the colour green. Green symbolizes the sprouting seed and the promise of a plentiful harvest on Earth and alludes also to the eternal harvest of heaven.

Thus for Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing "ordinary" about that!



We said goodbye to Father Roy, At his final Mass at St Joseph's Canon Seamus made a presentation of a cheque and we thanked him for his ministry during his almost four years with us as our assistant priest. He has moved to be priest in charge of the parish of Buckingham. At the time of writing we do not have the date of his replacement arriving, but it may be sometime.



One of his last duties before moving was to say the Annual Catholic Mass at the Anglican Church in Keysoe at the request of the Parish Priest Rev Jayne Bass, pictured here with Father Roy.

## Some Feast and Saints Days in August.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August:

### The Transfiguration of the Lord.

The Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor came to strengthen the faith of the disciples, for trying times lay ahead: the Son of Man would be put to death and all that the human eye could see was weakness, humiliation and suffering. Beyond the shame of the Cross, however, is the light and glory of Easter, and it is this that the Transfiguration reveals. It shows the disciples, and us, Christ's Divinity, He who is Light from Light, and anticipates the Glory of Heaven.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August Holy day of Obligation

### The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Solemnity of the Assumption is, in some ways, the paramount Feast of Our Lady, since it commemorates her passing, body and soul, into glory in Heaven, where she stands beside her Son 'in garments of gold'. Though the dogma of the Assumption was only defined in 1950, it was widely believed by the earliest Christians. The Blessed Virgin Mary truly leads the way, she fulfilled her vocation in humility and, given her Immaculate Conception, the grave was no place for her body. Where she is now, we one day hope to be.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August

### Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

St Augustine (354-430) was born in Algeria and, despite the example of his mother, became a Manichean and fathered an illegitimate child. [Manichean being an adherent of the dualistic religious system of Manes, a combination of Gnostic Christianity, Buddhism and various other elements, with a basic doctrine of a conflict between light and dark, matter being regarded as dark and evil.] He was converted at the age of 33, became a Bishop and wrote and preached energetically in defense of the Faith. He was one of the most influential Doctors of the Church and an inspiration to many that it is never too late to believe!

## Parish Forum getting things done

Our recently established Parish Forum is alive and kicking, see details and membership on the notice board. The Parish Forum provides a platform for Parish groups and parishioners to share ideas and communicate views for the benefit of the Parish. Parishioners are encouraged to have their say and to look on the Forum as a way of becoming better informed about what is going on in the Parish, the Deanery, and the Diocese. The forum meets quarterly. If you wish to raise an issue or have a suggestion please speak to a member or come along to the next meeting.

### Current Issues raised by parishioners to forum members:

1. Can we have a first Friday evening mass at St. Joseph's for those unable to attend the morning Mass?

*Canon Seamus: we cannot think of discussing this until we have Fr Roy's replacement, I am sure you will understand.*

2. Are children allowed to receive communion under both kinds?

*Canon Seamus: Yes, they are.*

### Work being carried out to maintain the fabric of the church

- Replacement of the damaged stone work and re-pointing of the brick work to the Guild Room fronting
- Decoration and repair to the Lady Chapel
- Refurbishment of the toilet to allow wheelchair access. This is still being assessed as to the practicalities.



**The Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe continues her inspirational Pilgrimages throughout the Country. So far in 2018, The Relic Image has been taken to Yarlwood here in Bedford, Slough, March for Life Westminster Hall in London, Appleby Travellers Fair, Croydon and Plymouth gaining thousands more Pilgrims who come to show their thankful devotion to her.**

**Help your Church** - We always need volunteers to help with the daily organisation and preparation to make our church a fitting and beautiful place of worship. Can you offer practical help in any of the following essential activities? **Welcoming** and greeting before and after Mass, **Cleaning, Flower arranging** if you can spare an hour two on a regular basis, please let Canon Seamus know.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The children's liturgy is at the centre of the 9.30 Sunday Mass. Activities take place in the Guild Room at St Joseph's and the meeting room at Our Lady's. Here children are involved, with their adult helpers in developing a practical and enjoyable way of understanding the theme of the Mass and the day's Gospel. After this preparation the children join the main congregation to bring back their work for the benefit of all. **Adult helpers are always required.** You do not have to be a parent to assist. Following our Diocesan guidelines, all those who help the children with the liturgy are required to complete an application and Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check. Training and support is given to volunteer help.

Contact: Lyn: 01234 268163.

Contact: Mary Frost: 01234 304014. [Our Lady's]