

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

Volume 2 Issue 1

October 2018

## Welcome to the Autumn issue of our Quarterly Bulletin

### *A word from Canon Seamus*

As we approach the season of Advent in preparation for the joyful feast of Christmas, we open our hearts to the coming of Christ and allow Him to make his home in us. We make sure He has a warm welcome by seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation, cleansing our hearts of all that would cause Him sadness or feel unwelcomed. Let us open our hearts wide to the gift of the Christ-child, who alone can answer our deepest needs and longings. The beautiful feast of Christmas affords us an opportunity to better understand and value the precious gift of life which is threatened today in so many ways. Love life, live life and be not deceived by the culture of death pervasive in so many of our western societies. Christmas reminds us of this central truth that life is a gift to be generously received and to be grateful for. One day we must give this life back to God. May we do so laden with the fruit of good works and a grateful heart. It is good to have Fr Nathaniel join us as part of our parish family. May his time with us be a blessing as we take him to our hearts and support him with our prayers.

Wishing you all the joys and blessings of the Advent and Christmas season.



Canon Seamus Keenan

### 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.



**Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who wander though the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen**



## WELCOME TO REV FR NATHANIEL DILE ONWUEKWE



I am NATHANIEL DILE ONWUEKWE. I was born on 14th January 1980 into the family of Late Mr Alexander and Ezinne Josephine Nwanneka Onwuekwe, in Ozubulu, of Anambra State, Nigeria. I have six siblings: five brothers (although one is late) and a sister. I am the last in the family. All my siblings are happily married with children.

I was ordained a Catholic priest for the Catholic Diocese of Nnewi, Nigeria on 5th July 2008. On the 1st of August 2008, I was appointed the personal secretary/assistant to Papal Nuncio: Most Rev Jude Thaddeus Okolo, who is presently the Papal Nuncio to the Republic of Ireland. I worked briefly in Nigeria as a parish vicar. In 2011, my Diocese in Nigeria, sent me to Switzerland for post-graduate studies. I studied for six years at the Facoltà di Teologia di Lugano, Switzerland (University of Lugano: USI). I obtained my Master's Degree in 2013. On the 9th March 2017, I defended my Doctorate Degree, and was pronounced a Doctor in Moral Theology having made a First Class Honours (summa cum laude).

As a student-priest in Switzerland, I visited the Diocese of Northampton regularly for summer pastoral supply, at the request of the Diocese. That took me to parishes in Burham, Slough, Daventry, and Flitwick. At the end of my studies in Switzerland, my Bishop in Nigeria (Most Rev Hilary Paul Odili Okeke) graciously permitted me to work in the Diocese of Northampton as Fidei Donum. Providentially, I am beginning this new page of my life with you: the Priest and parishioners of St Joseph's Bedford & Our Lady's Kempston. To see God through people has always been my soul's desire. Thus, I look forward to having a life-enriching experience and stay with you all.

*[Fidei Donum in Latin means 'the Gift of Faith'. This is the name of the encyclical of Pius XII in 1957, which called on all bishops to share his vision "to face the challenges of the universal mission of the Church".]*

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA



Proposed parish pilgrimage to Fatima 10 – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Cost depends on how many wish to go. 20 passengers = £585 per person based on sharing a twin room or 30 passengers = £546 per person. Prices include full board and flights. A Single room supplement is £90 per person. Please let Canon Seamus know as soon as possible so that we have an idea of numbers. A deposit of £200 per person will be required by mid December 2018.



### Adoremus 2018 Liverpool

The Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage held in Liverpool 7 - 9<sup>th</sup> September. **Some of the subjects presented:**

We need to deepen our understanding of **Adoration and the Holy Eucharist**, beginnings of which are within the Scriptures.

**The Eucharist in the life of the Church;** our personal relationship with God through adoration and meaningful engagement in Mass, and this must be for each an everyday endeavour not just a ritual to take part in.

**Preparing children** for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, and how to teach children to take part in Eucharistic adoration.

Day 2 started with The Papal Nuncio bringing a blessing from Pope Francis.

Presentations of:

The **Mystery of the Mass, the Source and Summit of Christian Life.**

Sainthood, Sanctity and What Makes us Holy? This made us reflect on how we live our faith and have Christ at our centre.

We participated in a wonderful celebration of Exposition and Benediction led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols which was an incredibly still moment of time with Christ in the presence of several thousand people.

The last day was the pilgrimage day when 10,000 people took part. We started with Solemn Mass led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Hardy souls then set off in the pouring rain to follow Christ on the streets of Liverpool as part of the Eucharistic procession. This concluded with a beautiful celebration of Benediction on the steps of the Cathedral.



### Reflection on a few ideas from the weekend:

Are we proud to be the living stones of the Church today?

Sin is not the final word because God always comes to look for us, even if we turn away He will come looking.

The more we develop our parish community to be a place of love the more we provide the welcome for the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the food for the pilgrimage of our Christian life.

**Full report will appear on the parish website**

### What's on in our Churches 2018:

**Mass of Reparation held Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November**  
12 noon, the Latin Mass Society is holding a National Mass of Reparation for the Abortion Referendum in Ireland, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, The Church of the Holy Child and St Joseph, Bedford.

**Divine Mercy Retreat Sunday 9th December**  
2 pm Led by the Marian Fathers and the Divine Mercy Apostolate.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Mass** will be held Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 pm. It is with great pleasure that unless unforeseen circumstances arise, the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Edward Adams, has accepted our invitation to be the Principal Celebrant at the Mass. We are greatly looking forward to welcoming Archbishop Adams on his first visit to Bedford.

### Fundraising New Parish Projects

Last year as a parish we raised £3,871 for Father Boniface's Orphanage in Uganda.

**This year** our Parish will support two projects, one with world-wide impact **Mary's Meals**, Mary's Meals provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children every day they attend school. See [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) for details of their work across the world.

Our second charity is local **Bedford Day Care Hospice in Linden Road** Established in 1992, the Hospice has a highly respected history of providing excellent quality specialist, palliative, and end of life care, from the point of diagnosis.

### Fund Raising events coming soon!

November Curry night .

December 1<sup>st</sup> - Mulled Wine evening at the home of the Ruffs in Wilden

16th Dec- Parish Draw tickets on sale soon

21<sup>st</sup> Dec Christmas concert.



**The Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe continues her inspirational Pilgrimages throughout the United Kingdom.**

You may want to do more - you may have time on your hands - or wish to put your Faith into practice in a more practical way why not think about joining one of the organisations within our parish:

### See Parish Directory for more details

**Society of St Vincent De Paul (SVP)** a lay organisation [international] which reaches out to those in need, offering friendship, and providing practical help and support.

**Secular Franciscan Order** international order of men and women founded by St Francis of Assisi in 1221 to help people live in the Franciscan spirit of detachment from earthly possessions and to observe the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Knights of St. Columba** our motto Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. We are a friendly organisation of Catholic men who support the clergy in the Diocese with their spiritual and practical work.

**Mothers' Prayer Group** meet in the Reconciliation Chapel at St Joseph's on the first Monday of the month. We meet to pray for the needs of mothers and families, who are one of the cornerstones of our Catholic Faith.

**Families' Home Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe** is a very popular devotion within our Parish. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of the unborn, families and the clergy.

**AMDG Young Adults Music Group** meet weekly, to practise and develop the musical liturgy for the 6.30 pm Sunday Mass and other special services throughout the Church Year.

**Parish Fund Raising Group** from members of both our Churches, meet every 2-3 months at St Joseph's to discuss and review the fundraising events being undertaken on behalf of the year's chosen charity.

**Catenian Association / Friday Rosary Group**

**See Parish Directory for more details**