

# St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Nathaniel Onwuekwe

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

[www.stjosephsbedford.org](http://www.stjosephsbedford.org) Email: [stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk)

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**  
23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018



## CHRISTMAS

The feast of Christmas invites us to gaze upon the Christ-child and ponder with Mary, his mother, this mystery. To see in this little child God made man is a gift of faith which others cannot see or understand. Our faith tells us that God came into this world of ours to be close to us and that he understands, that he is the light and the hope we need in our lives which remain lost and hopeless without him. In silence we come to the crib scene and bow in worship, filled with awe and wonder of God in the smallness and weakness of a helpless babe. All fear and sadness give way to this mystery so bright.

*“Silence is the space of this Child.  
Silence is the sphere where God is born.  
It is only when we ourselves enter the  
sphere of silence that we reach the  
place where God is born.”*

*Pope Benedict XVI*

## **Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford**

Sunday	8.15am	Francie Monaghan, RIP
	9.30am	Michael Keenan, RIP
	11.00am	Juliana Forbin, RIP
	6.30pm	Raymond & Family
Monday	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
	10.45am	John Macken & Family, RIP
	6.30pm	Children's Mass for Christmas
	11.30pm	Carols & Midnight Mass
Tuesday	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
	8.15am	Private Intention
	9.30am	Linda Richardson, RIP
	11.00am	Nora Fulton, RIP
Wednesday	<b>St Stephen</b>	
	7.30am	<b>No Mass</b>
	10.45am	Jimmy & Anne O'Neill & Family,
Thursday	<b>St John</b>	
	10.45am	Joy Slater
Friday	<b>The Holy Innocents</b>	
	10.45am	Chinnamma Joseph, RIP
Saturday	<b>St Thomas Becket</b>	
	10.45am	Michael Smith, RIP

## **Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston**

Sunday	9.30am	Mick & Elaine McLennan
Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Children's Mass for Christmas
Christmas Day	9.30am	Bridget McGettigan, RIP
Thursday	6.00pm	Michael Wright

**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)**  
**St Joseph's: 5.00pm – 5.30pm**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

**ROSARY:** Daily, 20 minutes before the 10.45am Mass

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

**ROSARY HOUR:** Friday 2.30pm.

**CLEANING:** Mukuze, Kahari, Ngoro, Signora

**FLOWERS:** All flower arrangers

**NEXT SUNDAY: Feast of the Holy Family**

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 3

**Children's Liturgy:** None until January

## **CRIB OFFERING**

Money placed in the Crib Offering box is in aid of our parish project: Mary's Meals and Bedford Daycare Hospice.

## **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**Christmas Eve: St Joseph's:** 6.30pm Children's Mass. Midnight Mass preceded by carols at 11.30pm. **Christmas Day:** 8.15am, 9.30am & 11.00am. **Our Lady's: Christmas Eve:** 6.30pm Children's Mass. **Christmas Day:** 9.30am.

## **WELCOME**

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors at this Christmas time and hope you are filled with every grace and blessing of this holy season. Please take a parish newsletter with the details of our Christmas Masses and visit our website at [www.stjosephsbedford.org](http://www.stjosephsbedford.org)

## **CHRISTMAS DRAW**

Thanks to all who bought tickets for the Christmas Draw and all who donated prizes. A total of £875.30 was raised from the Draw for our parish project. The list of prize winners is on the noticeboard in the porch and prizes can be collected from the presbytery at St Joseph's and from Our Lady's, Kempston.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

There will be no 7.30am Mass this Wednesday.

## **CATHOLIC BASICS**

Want to know more about your faith? Join us at the RE Centre, Luton for a basic introduction to the Catholic faith in four parts: God, The Church, The Moral Life, Prayer. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Price includes a full lunch. Part 1 starts on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019, 10am – 3.00pm (arr. 9.30am for refreshments) at the RE Centre, Holy Ghost Parish, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton LU4 8JD. To book contact [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone Jackie on 01582 723312. Please see poster for full details.

## **REQUIESCANT IN PACE**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Susan Clancy, Ann McAneney and Eileen Hall. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

## **CONFESSIONS-OUR LADY'S**

There will be an opportunity for Confession today in Our Lady's, Kempston, after the 9.30am Mass.

## **PASTORAL LETTER**

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Peter will be read at all Masses next Sunday, the feast of The Holy Family.

## **RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS**

There will be the renewal of marriage vows at all Masses next Sunday for couples who would like to do so on this feast of the Holy Family.

## **PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA**

Those who have expressed an interest in the parish pilgrimage to Fatima from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 are asked to pick up a booking form from Canon Seamus to be filled out with a deposit of £200 due this month. If anyone else is interested in going then please inform Canon Seamus as soon as possible.

## **PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE**

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019. Anyone interested in going please contact Mary Frost on 304014 as soon as possible.

### **Do Not Be Afraid**

*'The angel said to the shepherds; "Do not be afraid!" And I also repeat to all: do not be afraid! Our Father is patient, he loves us, he gives us Jesus to guide us on our way which leads to the promised land. Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness. He is our peace.'*

Pope Francis

*Canon Seamus and Fr Nathaniel wish you God's blessing for a holy and happy Christmas and thank you for your kindness and prayers.*

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1900.44**

**Our Lady's £246.85**

**Thank you.**