

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

Volume 2 Issue 2



April 2019

Services

St Joseph's:

Easter Sunday

Masses

8.15 am

9.30 am

11 am

6.30 pm



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Our Lady's

Kempston:

Easter 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 Easter issue of our Quarterly Bulletin

A word from Canon Seamus

The great feast of Easter is upon us; the feast of life, joy and hope.

The wonder and surprise of the Lord's resurrection has changed our understanding and perception of life forever. It now has meaning and purpose and beauty. We are filled with joy and hope because no matter what bad things happen in the world, in the Church and in our own lives, Jesus declares, in the power of His resurrection, "Behold, I make all things new!"

No longer are we subject to futility and a sense of hopelessness. Christ makes all things new because He has conquered sin and death. They no longer have power over us.

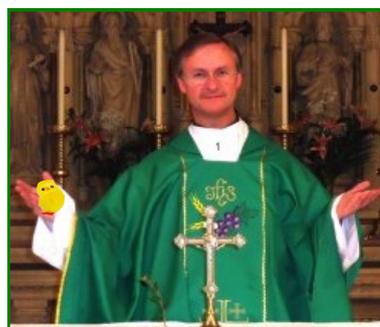
We are made for life and future glory. Alleluia!

Let this feast then fill our hearts and so be healed and consoled and renewed and filled with His peace.

Happy Easter Alleluia alleluia!

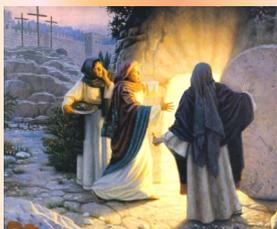
20 First Holy Communion children at The Holy Child & St Joseph Sunday 9th June at 11 am
And 21 children on 16th June at 11 am
3 First Holy Communion children at Our Lady's Kempston on Sunday 9th June at 2 pm.

CHILDREN! How many little Easter chicks can you find in the Bulletin?
Chocolate Bunny for the winner with biggest correct number!!



Canon Seamus Keenan and Father Nathaniel Dile Onwuekwe

Easter Sunday Prayer Corner



O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection, may through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen



NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE & PASTORAL AREA

Having reached the retirement age for Catholic Bishops, Bishop Peter has submitted his request for retirement, but it may be some time before a replacement is named and appointed. In the meantime, Bishop Peter will remain in post and oversee things. The replacement appointment may take a year or more as there are various vacancies coming up nationally; and the forthcoming retirements of the Archbishop of Southwark and the Bishop of East Anglia.



The clergy in our pastoral area are already stretched, there are four young men awaiting future ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese, but a number of clergy are due for retirement in the next few years, (three this year), and sickness & holiday cover stretches manpower severely.

The Bishops plan is for pastoral area groups to be set up to take on a lot of the administration work of their parishes, lay leaders will be sought to carry out suitable functions in parishes. Our pastoral area group has formed a sub-committee to look at staffing levels (needs and resources) for the future, but a reduction in the number of Masses must be regarded as likely, if not inevitable, possibly even in the short term future. Our Parish currently supplies the Prison and Hospital chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy is working towards the appointment of lay or ordained Catholic chaplains who could work 18 or so hours a week should the positions prove to be difficult to fit in with running a Parish with reduced manpower.

PARISH FORUM

We have an established a Parish Forum (see membership & details 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 whole 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 which will be held on Friday 21st June 2019.

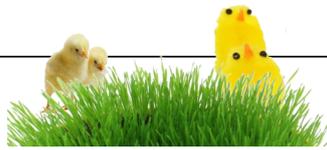
VOLUNTARY VACANCIES

The Guardians of Our Lady of Guadalupe based here in the Parish have the following voluntary vacancies to be in position in time for the 2019 National Pilgrimage tour [NPT 19] starting in April /May.

Position 1: Schools Programme Administrator.

This voluntary role involves contacting Catholic schools throughout Great Britain where the Miraculous Relic Image [MRI] will visit during its annual Pilgrimage tour. The schools are invited to come and learn more about the Relic Image, the position will manage the administration for each school visit.





VOLUNTARY VACANCIES CONTINUED

Position 2 and 3:

Position 2: Loaders for NPT 19 of the MRI. This voluntary role involves packing and loading all materials/equipment that accompany the MRI on its National Pilgrimage tour.

Position 3: Van Drivers for NPT 19.



This voluntary role involves driving our van to venues such as Cathedrals, churches, schools and major Catholic events throughout Great Britain ordinary driving license required with less than 5 points, must be aged over 21 and under 70 yrs.

If you are interested in any of these vacancies, please contact Guardian Barbara Kay on mbky3@outlook.com or 01234 340759.

REV FR NATHANIEL DILE ONWUEKWE CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY AT BEDFORD HOSPITAL

Caring in healthcare involves ministrations that ensure that the physiological, psychological, emotional and spiritual needs of the patients and their relatives are met. These ministrations are person-centred, protective, anticipatory, physically-comforting, confidential, and for a Catholic it is also Christ-centred, spiritually-enriching, and go beyond the routine care of the patient. While seeking to treat, heal and relieve pains and illness, Catholics understand that illness allows us to unite our pains with that of Christ so as to have a deeper understanding, and participation in His redemptive sufferings, and to experience His special love and power. Thus, in illness, the Church through its pastoral care of the sick is closer to the patient and his/her relatives, and becomes therefore a healing resource for the patient to call on. This explains the constant presence of the Catholic Church in the healthcare through its organ, traditionally known as Hospital Chaplaincy.



Thus, the Catholic Chaplaincy at the Bedford South Wing Hospital provides spiritual, emotional and pastoral care to patients, their relatives, and all those who make up the Trust professional team. These services include anointing of the sick, Viaticum [*the Eucharist as given to a person near or in danger of death*], bedside communion, confession, and commendation of the dying are provided only at the request of the patient or through their relatives.

Following the resignation of the hospital Chaplain Fr Malcolm Bull, I was nominated the Chaplain *pro tempore*. It is a part-time apostolate. I work with three certified and dedicated Catholic volunteers: Sr Margaret Abbott, Jennifer Podesta and Michael Simmonds. In a case of emergency, that is, in the case of life and death, the Chaplain can be contacted through the Ward or Hospital Switchboard, or by ringing the Chaplaincy 01234 355122 Ext. 5901. The Chaplain has a weekly ward-round, every Friday. During this spiritual exercise, he ministers to Catholics/others who upon their admission in the hospital indicated interest to be visited by a Catholic Priest or his designated assistants. We encourage Catholics who are in the Hospital: patients and staff, to identify with the chaplaincy. We would recommend that it is more appropriate to obtain the consent of a patient before a notification of his/her admission is passed to the Chaplain/Volunteers or to any priest.

Holy Mass is celebrated every Friday at 12.15, in the Faith Room/Chapel of the hospital. It is open to everyone, including parishioners who would like to participate. There is no Holy Mass/ward-round on Good Friday and Christmas Day, if it falls on a Friday.

We thank Fr Malcolm for his innumerable services while he was the Chaplain. We assure him of our prayerful wishes and best regards.



AMDG OUR YOUNG PEOPLE MUSIC GROUP

AMDG the Young People Music Group based at St Joseph's Church, often provide the musical liturgy at Shrine Masses, services and events, and are regulars for the 6.30 Sunday Mass. The Group, led by Clare and Peter, is in the process of recording their second album. The proceeds from its sale will go towards the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the work of the Guardians in promoting the National Pilgrimage Tour.

Back in 2012, AMDG produced for us their first album 'For God's Greater Glory', which so far has sold near to 400 copies and raised in excess of £2,000 towards the Guardians' Fund. This has been one of our largest fundraising projects to date.

AMDG has welcomed many new members as others have moved away. This album has seen the reunion of many previous members who have travelled back from abroad and elsewhere in the UK.

It is hoped to have the new album ready for April 2019 and the start of the 2019 National Pilgrimage Tour. The CD will be on sale in our Churches as soon as available and will be sold from the repository we take to each Pilgrimage venue.

THE ROLE OF DEACONS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

In the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, you have the Pope as our head (well, after God) Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, and then Deacons. Simply put, Deacons are meant to be servants, assisting the Priest (and Church) in whatever way they can.



The Catholic Church recognises three types of Deacons.

Permanent Deacons are men ordained to an office in the Catholic Church who normally have no intention or desire of becoming priests. He can be single or married. If the latter, he must be married before being ordained a deacon. If his wife dies before him, he may be ordained a priest if the bishop permits and approves.

Transitional Deacons are seminary students in the process of becoming ordained priests. They serve as deacons for one year and are then ordained by the bishop as priests.

Permanent Deacons, especially those who are married, may have secular jobs to support their families or be recently retired. They help the Parish Priest by visiting the sick, teaching the faith, counselling couples and individuals, working on parish committees and councils, and giving advice to the priest as requested.

Practically speaking Deacons can do many activities that priests participate in. Deacons can baptise, preach during Mass, officiate at a Catholic wedding, and even run a parish (with the permission of the local bishop). Deacons can also lead communion services and officiate at Funeral Services which are not Requiem Masses.

Deacons cannot consecrate the Eucharist or hear confessions; they cannot administer the Sacraments of Confirmation or Anointing of the Sick.

Our Pastoral area has two permanent Deacons, Rev Tony Quinlan and Rev Crispin Walkling Lea both based with Father Wayne at St Philip & St James and Holy Cross but it is likely in the future that as the pressure builds on our local parish priests, we will see them assisting across our pastoral area.

If you feel you may have a vocation and are interested in learning more about becoming a Deacon to the permanent Diaconate please contact Father Francis Higgins

FrFrancis@northamptondiocese.org

Candidates are expected to be in a stable state of life and over the age of 35. There is no upper age limit, except that which our expected life span and intellectual and physical ability impose.