

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant: Deacon Kevin Ryan

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**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**
22nd December 2019



KATHLEEN KEENAN RIP

My mother died last week aged 96 years. A long and fulfilled life. Thank you for your concern and prayers over the years for her. Let the joy and hope of this season of Christmas brighten our way.

CHRISTMAS

The feast of Christmas invites us to stop and gaze with wonder at this great mystery of God as a little baby in the arms of Mary his mother. It should take our breath away! *“Man was full of joy and gladness; God was weeping, weak and lone. Ne'er before throughout the ages had so strange a thing been known.”* This is the wonder and joy of our faith! This faith tells us that God came into our world 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 without meaning devoid of his presence. All fear and sadness give way to this mystery so bright.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Tom Cusack
	9.30am	Kathleen Keenan, RIP
	11.00am	Catherine Malone, RIP
	6.30pm	Raymond & Family
Monday	Emmanuel	
	10.45am	Michael Keenan, RIP
Tuesday	Christmas Eve	
	7.30am	Fr Paul Chevasse
	10.45am	Sandy Grove, RIP
	6.30pm	Children's Mass for Christmas
	11.30pm	Carols & Midnight Mass
Wednesday	Christmas Day	
	8.15am	Private Int.
	9.30am	Linda Richardson, RIP
	11.00am	Fulton & Devlin Families
Thursday	St Stephen	
	10.45am	No Mass
Friday	St John	
	10.45am	No Mass
Saturday	The Holy Innocents	
	10.45am	Chinamma Joseph & KM Joseph, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Mary Killeen
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Children's Mass for Christmas
Christmas Day	9.00am	Bridget McGettigan, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

ROSARY: Daily, 20 minutes before the 10.45am Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None this week.

CLEANING: Daniels, Nwankwo, Okonkwo

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.

CONFESSIONS AT OUR LADY'S

Confessions today after the Vigil Mass in Our Lady's.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Mass times in **St Joseph's**:

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm Children's Mass.
Midnight Mass preceded by Carols at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day: 8.15am, 9.30am & 11am. No evening Mass.

Our Lady's: Christmas Eve: 5.00pm Children's Mass. **Christmas Day:** 9.00am.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Mass this Thursday and Friday and no Eucharistic Adoration.

CONFIRMATION 2020

Those wishing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation next year, i.e. Year 9 of school or older, are asked to collect an enrolment form from the sacristy. Preparation classes will begin in January 2020. All forms should be returned by the end of December.

THANKS

Ted Fawcett, Chairman of EVC Uganda, wishes to thank all those in the parish who so kindly support poor children through EVC Child Sponsorship Programme. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated and valued. On behalf of the Charity he wishes each one of you every peace and joy at Christmas with your family and loved ones.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

There will be parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 19th to 26th May 2020. Book early for a cheaper flight, usually £100 plus hold luggage. Half board accommodation is 28 euros per night if sharing and 38 euros for a single room per night. If interested, please contact Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Keenan. May she rest forever in the peace of the Lord.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The list of prize winners is now on the noticeboard. Please claim your prize from the presbytery. Thanks to all who donated prizes and bought tickets which, after the money prizes and expenses, raised £773.86 for our parish project.

CATHOLIC BASICS

A basic introduction to the Catholic faith in four parts will be run from January to June next year. Part one starts on Saturday 25th January from 10am to 3pm at the RE Centre, Westbourne Road, Luton LU4 8JD. Cost is £15 per person. To reserve a place contact admin@nores.org.uk or complete a form obtainable from the presbytery.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

An Ecumenical Christian Meditation Group meets every Friday at 12 noon in the Quiet Room of St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road. All welcome. See poster on the noticeboard.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS

The Knights of St Columba have made available Christmas posters at the back of the church to display in your windows.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 12th to 19th October 2020. Price: £1540 per person sharing a twin/double room on a half-board basis. Single room supplement is £280. The balance due by 12th June 2020. Please see Canon Seamus.

Be Not 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.'

Canon Seamus and Deacon Kevin wish you God's blessing for a holy and happy Christmas.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1252.45

Our Lady's £177.79

Thank you.