

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

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

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

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**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**
29th March 2020



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Whilst our parish Masses are suspended the parish income will greatly suffer! Your weekly donations are relied upon to pay bills, housekeeping expenses and wages. Please consider continuing with your donations by posting a cheque occasionally to 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU payable to St Joseph's Parish, Bedford, or payable to Our Lady of Ransom Parish, Kempston, postal address Our Lady of Ransom, 307 Bedford Road, Kempston MK42 8QB. Thank you.

PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral letter from our new bishop can be read on our website.

ADOREMUS PRAYER GROUP

No monthly meetings until further notice.

CONFESSIONS

On request at the presbytery.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday People of the Parish

Monday *Feria* Nora Fulton, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

Wednesday *Feria* Dinorah Burnett, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

Friday *Feria*

Saturday *Feria*

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

ROSARY: Daily, 20 minutes before the 10.45am Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Mukuze, Ndooro, Kahari

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Palm Sunday

Readers & Ministers: None for the present

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

PALM SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Sadly, it seems, we will not be able to celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week as a parish this year. You can, however, follow them live from our Cathedral by going to www.northamptondiocese.org/live

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

The Quarterly Parish Bulletin is now available to view on our website.

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND

The Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary takes place in all the Catholic cathedrals in England today at 12noon.

This Act of Entrustment and other related prayers can be viewed at www.behold2020.com and www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream. We are invited to join in this by entrusting ourselves to Our Lady. Prayer of Entrustment below:

PRAYER OF PERSONAL ENTRUSTMENT

O Holy Mother of God pray for us, and assist us as we dedicate ourselves this day. Your yes at the Annunciation brought our Saviour Jesus Christ into the world, and you invite us to contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation, sharing your joy in announcing that "the Word was made flesh and lived among us." May our yes, this day, open our hearts to serve our brothers and sisters in this your Dowry, that they too may share our joy in the Good News that God walks among us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PUBLIC MASSES CANCELLED

Sadly our churches must now remain closed until further notice. Pray every day that the Lord will soon lift this scourge from us and hold in prayer the victims of this terrible virus. Pray, too, for our medical professionals who are working hard in the care of patients. I encourage you to make an Act of Spiritual Communion at this difficult time.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as being already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Booked Mass intentions will be said in private. The intentions are printed on this newsletter.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 11:1-45

In life itself we are reminded that the art of dying is bound up with the act of living. To leave a place or a person we love is a sort of dying. To let go of a tenaciously held idea which may be inappropriate; to relinquish an impossible dream; to compromise for the sake of peace; to let a child become an independent adult and move into his or her own life; to leave unsaid the wounding remark. The list goes on. Anytime we let go there is what may be called a little death. If we remain afraid of such little deaths, we risk leading a life burdened by caution and void of hope. But if we can learn to let go we are freed from becoming overburdened and able to travel lightly and more light-heartedly! Besides, nothing is definitively lost. As our Lord reminds us, "He who loses his life will save it." All is to be found again in Christ and more, as he promised elsewhere: "Good gifts will be given to you, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap." Our desire for fulfilment, for happiness, for life, will be completely satisfied in the new life of heaven, where there will be no more sadness, no more tears, no more suffering, no more coronavirus and no more death because the world of the past, the world that we now inhabit and know so well, is gone. Paradoxically, in order for us to be able to enter that new world of heaven, our Lord had to experience what is our common lot, death. But because he is the Resurrection and the Life, the grave had no power over him, which is why our faith is an Easter faith that declares, along with Martha in the gospel today, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life. In his resurrection, Christ has disclosed a new dimension of human destiny. He reveals a future for our human nature beyond the stretch of our natural powers. In this strange and difficult time we are passing through, we hold close the hope of that future in the love of the Risen Lord.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £148.19

Our Lady's £

Thank you.