

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

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk

PALM SUNDAY

5th April 2020



HOLY WEEK

We enter, today, into the events of Holy Week, recalling the saving passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Sadly, we are unable, as a believing community, to celebrate these events liturgically. This is a painful experience for all of us but we can join in them as best we can through live-streaming and by following the Holy Week services from your Missal if you have one. These are trying times but we can unite our pain with the sufferings of Our Lord as he makes his way to the cross. And we know that the story does not end there. There is resurrection! There is the joy of new life and that's what we must focus on; the triumph of life over death. Christ Jesus has the last word and it is a word of victory and therefore hope. So with confidence share in that victory, that hope, as we journey with the Lord in this most holy week of the year.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday People of the Parish

Monday *Holy Week*

Evelyn Foy, RIP

Tuesday *Holy Week*

Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Wednesday *Holy Week*

Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP

Thursday *Maundy Thursday*

8.00pm Linda Richardson, RIP

Friday *Good Friday*

3.00pm No Mass. Good Friday Service

Saturday *Holy Saturday-Easter Vigil*

8.00pm People of the Parish

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

**Confessions: Saturday None for the present
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

ROSARY: None at present

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None at present

CLEANING: None at present

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Easter Sunday

Readers & Ministers: None for the present

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

LIVE-STREAMING

You can follow the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter from our cathedral by going to www.northamptondiocese.org/live

PARISH FINANCES

Please consider continuing your financial support for our two parishes by posting cheques to the above address or to Our Lady of Ransom, 307 Bedford Rd, Kempston MK42 8QB. BACS transfer is also a possibility. Please contact Canon Seamus for account details. Your generosity will help the parish through this uncertain time. Thank you.

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Holy Saint Joseph, you were a man of great hope and faith. You faced many difficult times in your life, fleeing into Egypt, caring and fearing for Mary and Jesus. You lived like us today in uncertain times. Your strength came from knowing that the power and faithfulness of God would always be constant. Fill us with the confidence that you had in the Lord, our God. Help us to know that God is so close to us that He will deliver us from these trials and troubles we are now encountering. May the light of the Lord give us hope. May it guide us every day of our lives and, uniting our prayers with yours, may we be assured by the peace and joy of the Lord that will strengthen us in all our difficulties. Holy Saint Joseph, pray for us. Amen.

PUBLIC MASSES CANCELLED

Sadly our churches must 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.

REQUESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pamela Hancock. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

PRAYER REQUEST

Your prayers are asked for Fr Boniface and his people who are also suffering from the virus but have a weak health-care service.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Matthew 21:1-11

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest heavens!” These words of acclamation greeted Jesus as he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in today’s gospel account. The people wave palm branches before him and lay their cloaks on the ground. Although we are unable to celebrate this event in the usual way we can, as it were, wave before the Lord, who is in our hearts, our love and our lively faith. We can spread before him our praise, our good works, our prayers, our sacrifices, our sincere sorrow for sin, our hope in his promises and our joy in his victory. Let not the difficulties of the present moment rob us of the joy that can sing ‘Hosanna in the highest!’ He is with us at this time, walking by our side and encouraging us to keep on walking. And we walk with him, meeting him at the Last Supper, witnessing the humble action of washing the feet of the apostles, breaking the bread of life in the very first Eucharist and instituting the priesthood. Then we follow him to the Garden of Gethsemane where he prays most fervently to his Father in this dark hour. Strengthened by that prayer, he moves forward serenely to face his arrest, trial and sentence to death on the cross. Good Friday is where we witness the great plan of God for the salvation of the world played out on the cross of redemptive suffering. In this mystery we see our crucified Lord absorb in his own body the power of evil and he neutralises it! In the cross we see how much we are worth. We are worth the death of the Son of God! It is Good Friday because by his cross and resurrection he has set us free from the power of sin and death. The cross becomes the ladder by which we enter heaven. And now his lifeless body is taken down and buried in the tomb. But the tomb could not hold him for long!

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER COLLECTIONS

You might like to contribute to the Good Friday collection for the upkeep of the Holy Land Shrines and the Easter collection for the upkeep of your parish priest! Both can be posted and clearly marked

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph’s £205.00

Our Lady’s £187.00

Thank you.