

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

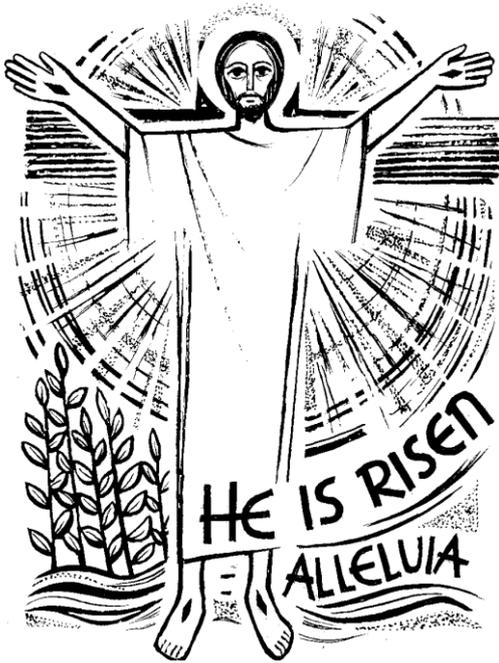
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EASTER SUNDAY

12th April 2020



EASTER

Today is the greatest feast in the life of the Church and in the life of every Christian, despite the present situation. With thanksgiving and joy and renewed hope we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. We share now in that victory and with him we will rise to everlasting life. Christ's resurrection gives meaning and direction to our earthly existence. We are made for life and future glory! It is this Easter faith that we possess which helps us experience, even now, something of the future life that awaits us in heaven. "Behold, I make all things new!" is the promise of the risen Christ. Consoling words at this time. We are made new in him and this gives us the courage to live the gift of life and the gift of faith to the full with joyful hope. So we take heart and rejoice on this day made by the Lord.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday

Linda Richardson, RIP

Monday *Easter Octave*

Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Tuesday *Easter Octave*

Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Wednesday *Easter Octave*

Michael & Teresa Mortimer

Thursday *Easter Octave*

Catherine Kelly, RIP

Friday *Easter Octave*

Sandy Grove, RIP

Saturday *Easter Octave*

Bernie O'Gorman, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

ROSARY: None at present

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None at present

CLEANING: None at present

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Readers & Ministers: None for the present

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

THANKS

A word of thanks to all who sent us Easter greetings and Easter offerings. Very kind and generous. I can have jam with my tea!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the feast of Divine Mercy when we recall the great mercy of God revealed in Christ. Although there will be no public celebration, we can still say the Chaplet of Mercy that the pandemic may be over soon. God is the master of the world and the power of nature and so we approach him with confidence in our hour of need.

PARISH FINANCES

Please consider continuing your financial support for our two parishes by posting cheques to the above address made payable to St Joseph's Parish, Bedford and Our Lady of Ransom, Kempston. Address: Our Lady's Church, 307 Bedford Rd, Kempston MK42 8QB. BACS transfer is also a possibility. Please contact Canon Seamus for account details. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION MASS

At the request of the bishop the Confirmation Mass has been moved from 11th June to Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm. Classes will resume once we know the conditions for ending the lock-down.

FIRST COMMUNIONS

The dates for the First Holy Communion Masses will remain in place until we know otherwise. We will keep you informed in good time.

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 especially when viewing Mass. Live streaming of Mass can be viewed by going to www.northamptondiocese.org/live

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 Pamela Hancock, RIP.

EASTER REFLECTION John 20:1-9

The evidence of spring is all around us, brightening our spirits at this time. The power and wonder of nature cannot be held back, even by a pandemic! And neither can the power and wonder of Christ's resurrection! He is risen, he is risen indeed! Easter light shines upon us and disperses the gloom. *"Easter glory fills the sky. Christ now lives, no more to die. Darkness has been put to flight, by the living Lord of light!"* In this we rejoice. In this we find our hope. In this is the answer to all our desires, our longing for life and happiness. Easter really is a challenge; a challenge to a living faith. We felt safe at Christmas. Here was God on earth on our level and within easy reach of our normal human experiences. But Easter is different. Here is Easter-Man who has disclosed a new dimension of human destiny, an experience which only faith can reach for and touch. Easter shows a future for our human nature beyond the stretch of our natural powers. Only with the eyes of faith can we accept that future as ours. Only the heart of hope can reach out for it day after day. Only love, love for the risen Lord will take and hold it close forever. For sure, we live now by faith and not by sight. We live in a time of great testing when we are reminded daily of the fragility and uncertainty of life. Perhaps we doubt the promise of Easter as death continues to stalk. But the horizon of death is only the limit of our vision. This great feast opens our eyes to the wonder of new, resurrection life beyond the horizon. Jesus conquered death and conquer it he did! Therefore, we are an Easter people. In the face of all that would contradict this truth, we proclaim life in all its fullness because Christ has defeated the last enemy of man. Today we share his victory. Today we rejoice and are glad. Today we sing, Amen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Wishing you the joy and blessing of
the risen Lord this Easter.*

Canon Seamus & Deacon Kevin

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £390.00

Our Lady's £

Thank you.