

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

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

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**SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER**
19th April 2020



BE OF GOOD CHEER

“In the world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”. John 16:33. These confident words of Jesus should echo in our hearts as we continue to cope with the present situation which has cost many lives and much grief and anxiety. To know that the Lord is with us and does not abandon his people is a comfort as we strive to live our lives in a strange and unfamiliar landscape. Prayer at this time is so important to keep alive the sense of the presence of God. To pray individually and especially as a family is a great source of strength. We cannot endure the present crisis on our own, so pray and look out for one another, especially those you know to be most vulnerable. We share a common humanity. Let us show our concern and solidarity in all those ways that are open to us. And be of good cheer in the Lord.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday

Ian Herbert, RIP

Monday *Feria*

Franciska Rozman, RIP

Tuesday *St Anselm*

James Foy, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

Fulton & Devlin Families, RIP

Thursday *St George*

Leon Lewis, RIP

Friday *Feria*

Pamela Hancock, RIP

Saturday *St Mark*

Atkins Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

ROSARY: None at present

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None at present

CLEANING: None at present

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: None for the present

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Today is the feast of Divine Mercy when we recall the great mercy of God revealed to us in Christ. Although there will be no public celebration, we can still say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3.00pm, praying that this pandemic may be lifted 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.

REQUESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Leon Lewis. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

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.

BEDFORD FOOD BANK

Bedford Food Bank requires the following items: pasta, UHT fruit juice, tinned rice pudding, tinned carrots, tinned peas, rice (1kg), UHT milk, teabags (40). Please deliver to 71 Murdock Road, Manton Industrial Estate, Bedford, MK41 7PL. Tel: 268569. If you prefer to give a monetary donation the bank details are NatWest Bank Ltd. Sort Code: 60-02-13. Account: 71281320. Any assistance would be welcomed as they are seeing a large increase in the number of people needing help.

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 20:19-31

"Peace be with you". These are the first words of the risen Jesus to his anxious and frightened disciples in today's gospel reading. And they are words addressed to us too. The word in Hebrew is Shalom, which means well-being, the fullness of all that is good. He wants to share this with us now, to know that he is near, that he is close, have no fear. Fear is an important element in today's gospel. The doors were closed in the room where they were for fear. They are fixed, still, closed in, petrified. Then Jesus is suddenly among them, reassuring them with words of peace. He is truly alive! The peace and joy which our Lord's appearance produces among his disciples is somewhat marred when Thomas arrives back to hear the news that the others have seen Jesus. Thomas, like his companions, is afraid that the Lord's resurrection is not real, that it is an illusion, that it is too good to be true. Only physical proof will be enough to cast out the physical fear which grips him: *"Unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe"*. Yet when the risen Jesus did appear to him we have that wonderful cry of faith, *"My Lord and my God!"* Thomas understood then, even more than the other disciples, what Jesus' resurrection meant: Jesus was and is truly Lord and God! His resurrection is the defining moment in human history. On Easter Sunday a power was unleashed, a new humanity was revealed in the risen Christ. In the words of Pope Benedict there was in the resurrection of Jesus 'an evolutionary leap'. We are no longer subject to these few short years of life before death claims us but we now have a new destiny that stretches into eternity and therefore a new dignity that places us among the angels of God. Too good to be true? Some may think so. But that's not you and me. We believe, we know that Jesus is Lord and God. And what is more, we are blessed, as Jesus tells us, even more than those first disciples because we have not seen and yet we believe. So, as mentioned previously, be of good cheer, be of good heart and rejoice in this blessing.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £380.00

Our Lady's £310.00

Thank you.