

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

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

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**THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2020



## INTO SILENCE

Many have remarked how, since the lockdown, they are able to hear the sounds of nature more clearly, especially the singing of the birds because of reduced noise pollution. This time of quiet we are experiencing can be an opportunity also to hear the voice of God more attentively in prayer and in his word. Granted, this may not be so easy if there is a house full of young children demanding your attention. However, we can seize what moments of quiet come our way to place ourselves for a few moments in the presence of God, putting aside other distractions that can fill our time. Making use of such opportunities will help us realise that there is someone to share what we are all going through and receive from the Lord the awareness of his presence and the comfort he brings. Give a little time each day to prayer and the reading of scripture and so come to realise that our God knows nothing about social distancing.

## Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday

Anthony Herbert, RIP

Monday *Feria*

Teresa Conway, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

Eily Cusack, RIP

Wednesday *St Catherine of Siena*

Michael Smith, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

Gavin Plank-McMahon, RIP

Friday *St Joseph the Worker*

Patrick Summers, RIP

Saturday *St Athanasius*

Jacquet Family

## Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Show us, Lord, the path of life.**

**ROSARY:** None at present

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** None at present

**CLEANING:** None at present

**FLOWERS:** No flowers

**NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Readers & Ministers:** None for the present

**Children's Liturgy:** None for the present

## 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.

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

The Bishops' Conference has a website you might like to view to keep up with Church news at this particular time: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk).

## **CONFIRMATION MASS**

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

## **FIRST COMMUNIONS**

Given the present circumstances, we have decided to move the First Holy Communion Masses to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00pm in St Joseph's church. If the present lockdown continues longer, then the Masses will move to the beginning of September. Catch-up classes will be put in place once we know the way forward. We will keep you informed.

## **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 Nat West 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.*

*'The Christian has a deep, silent, hidden peace, which the world sees not, like some well in a retired and shady place.'*

St John Henry Newman

## **REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Leo McCartie, former bishop of this diocese. May this good servant rest in the peace of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION Luke 24:13-35**

The two disciples we read about in this gospel passage were making their way home to Emmaus from Jerusalem with empty hearts. Their hopes had been so high when they saw the miracles of Jesus. Their hearts had thrilled to his words, his manner and his teaching. Surely here was the Saviour! And now they walked along with the darkest gloom in their hearts. Their world had fallen apart. They had seen Jesus defeated, put to death. Evil had conquered. Jesus was beaten and their hopes died with him. But then the risen Jesus approached them along the way although they failed to recognise him. He enquired as to their sorrow and disappointment and then started to explain the scriptures to them concerning himself. The disciples felt their hearts burn within in them with renewed hope and joy. Jesus had walked with them in their sorrow and pain and gave them new heart and new understanding and their new found joy was brought to completion when they recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread. There are times when we are like those disciples, maybe in this present situation, when our hearts are filled with confusion and sadness. We are brought low and find it an effort to keep going. Belief becomes difficult and hope is almost gone. But whatever it is that ails us, that causes us anxiety and reduces us to a weary gait, we must ever keep in mind that there is one who walks with us and he is the risen Lord. As with the disciples, he will put new heart into us. He will fan into a flame that little spark of faith that still burns within. All we need do is be aware of his presence by our side, never to think that he has for one moment abandoned us, leaving us desolate and alone as the disciples thought had happened to them. Jesus chastised them for their lack of faith, "You foolish men! So slow to believe". We must not be slow to believe but let our hearts burn within us in the knowledge that Jesus lives and we also shall live. He is risen, he walks with us. Our lives should find comfort and strength to continue the journey with faith and hope which will melt away into vision at journey's end.

## **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £440.00**

**Our Lady's £**

**Thank you.**