

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

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

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**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**
3rd May 2020



VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Today is a special day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, especially for our diocese. Please pray for this important intention not only today but keep it as part of your daily prayer that the Lord of the harvest will provide labourers for his harvest. Pray too for the men who are now preparing for the priesthood for our diocese. The following is a prayer that we could use:

Loving Father, you call us by name. As we journey through life help us to discern your will for us. Bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous people from our families and friends who will serve as Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers. May we support one another in response to God's call. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday

People of the Parish

Monday

Martyrs of England & Wales

Daphne Smith

Tuesday

Feria

Pat Fitzpatrick, RIP

Wednesday

Feria

Evelyn Foy, RIP

Thursday

Feria

Bishop Leo McCartie, RIP

Friday

Feria

Teresa Smith, RIP

Saturday

Feria

Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

ROSARY: None at present

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None at present

CLEANING: None at present

FLOWERS:

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth 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

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 lockdown.

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Given the present circumstances, we have decided to move the First Holy Communion Masses to Saturday 11th July and Saturday 18th 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 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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Leo McCartie, former bishop of our diocese. May the Lord grant eternal rest to this good and faithful servant.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 10:1-10

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." These words of Jesus in today's gospel go to the heart of his ministry, of his reason for coming into the world. And they are comforting words, full of joyful expectancy. He has come that we may have life to the full! What a promise! And he delivers as anyone can attest who has followed him, the good shepherd. There are many voices claiming our attention, many philosophies, ideologies, political movements demanding our adherence. But only one can truly deliver on his promises: Jesus, whose words bring life, give direction, impart meaning to our existence. Jean Paul Sartre, the existentialist philosopher, once said, *'everything has been figured out, except how to live.'* He got that one wrong! Jesus has given us the blueprint of life, of how to live it in the message of the gospel. Listening to his voice, his words and acting upon them gives meaning and flavour to our lives and guarantees the hope of eternal life and happiness which is a natural instinct in man. The good shepherd sees to it that we do not go astray, that we recognise the truth in the authenticity of his teaching and his life. Others will come with their own take on life but they are strangers, we take no notice of them. We listen and follow the voice of Christ who leads us safely through this perilous world of moral confusion and turpitude. Yes, we live in the world but we are not of the world. Whilst we play our part in bettering it, we always keep our eyes and hearts on the world which we call our true home. By so doing it helps us to have a proper perspective on life and shapes our attitude to the world in which we live and have a vested interest. That perspective is so important because it reminds us that fulfilment can only be had in that which is promised in Christ. We see what others, caught up in the concerns of the world, cannot see. This is our secret as Christians. Holding on to that vision and insight to things is the work of faith and the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts that we may have life and have it to the full.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £149.00

Our Lady's £77.00

Thank you.