

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

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

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**SIXTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2020



## ASCENSION OF THE LORD

This Thursday is the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. This feast recalls how Jesus, after his resurrection, returned to his Father in heaven to await us as we continue to make our way back to the Father's house. Jesus is with us always as promised, especially in the Mass which we all long to celebrate together once again! He aids us in our journey of faith which is particularly difficult at the moment. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us and so we keep our eyes and hearts fixed on our eternal home whilst we make our pilgrim way on earth.

## OPENING THE CHURCHES

July 4<sup>th</sup> seems to be the date set by the Government for this to happen for public worship. There is a ray of hope that we might be allowed to open for private prayer before this date. See also below.

## Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday

People of the Parish

Monday *Feria*

Winnie Maughan & Family

Tuesday *Feria*

Fr Colin Taylor, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

James Foy, RIP

Thursday *The Ascension of the Lord*

Linda Richardson, RIP

Friday *Feria*

Bridget Leydon, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

Patsy Lynch & Family

## Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

**ROSARY:** None at present

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** None at present

**CLEANING:** None at present

**FLOWERS:**

**NEXT SUNDAY: Seventh 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. **Please see below an alternative for parish giving.**

## 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)

## **GIVING TUESDAY**

This is another means of keeping up your weekly donations to the parish during the period of lockdown. Every Tuesday between 10.00am and 4.00pm you can call the Northampton Diocese on 01604 712065 and donate by debit or credit card to the parish of St Joseph, Bedford or Our Lady, Kempston. You can make a one-off donation to cover your missed Sunday offerings or call each week on a Tuesday. If the line is engaged please call back later or leave your contact details on the answer machine and someone will return your call.

## **APPEAL TO OPEN PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Bishop David is encouraging us to contact Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Communities to open our churches for at least private prayer in the next phase of the lockdown as we wait for a full lifting of the restrictions. Contact details:

House of Commons, London SW1 0AA or email: [robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk) or call: 02072 197335.

## **CAFOD APPEAL**

CAFOD has launched a coronavirus emergency appeal for the developing countries of our world. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. This will push them into further poverty so our help is needed to protect their lives. While we are unable to hold a physical collection, we can donate as individuals at [www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal](http://www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal) or by sending a cheque to CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.

## **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 14:15-21**

In a court of law the barrister defending the accused is an advocate. Our Lord uses this term in the gospel today to describe the role the Holy Spirit will play in the life of his followers after his ascension. But is there more to being an advocate than speaking on someone's behalf? There are in fact many aspects to the role of the Holy Spirit. Defending, counselling and comforting are all aspects of what the Holy Spirit the Advocate does. The Holy Spirit defends, speaks on our behalf and comes to our help in situations where we feel helpless. The Spirit helps us to pray to the Father, to express our feelings, our needs, our hopes. He counsels us, enables us to evaluate and decide what is best and gives us confidence to take the right path. He, in prayer, advises us how to live our lives in obedience to God's commandments, though they be difficult at times. He also comforts us. Jesus knew that the disciples would miss him more than a child would miss a departed parent, so he makes a promise: "I will not leave you orphans." An advocate is someone on your side, someone who stands beside you in the face of uncertainty and threat. The Holy Spirit is a powerful and reassuring presence in our lives. And what is more, he lives in us! Not only does he speak for us, he speaks to us in the silence of our hearts, counselling us, guiding us. And Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be one of truth, revealing the meaning of life to those who believe, something which the world is unable to understand without help. In turn, the Spirit will speak through us to others. He enables us to share in God's work by acting as advocates ourselves to those in need. We do the Spirit's work when we defend the defenceless, by working for justice and searching for truth. When we teach our children about the Catholic faith or share that faith with others. We bring God's comfort when we console the troubled, the saddened, the bereaved. All this is sharing in the work of God's Spirit and so we pray that we may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit our Advocate, that we too may become advocates of God's truth.

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £445.00**

**Our Lady's £**

**Thank you.**