

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

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**SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**
24th May 2020



NATIONAL ROSARY RALLY

On the feast of Pentecost, next Sunday, we are invited individually or as a family to pray the Rosary for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. Calling upon the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Our Lady, we also keep in prayer those who have been victims of the virus, those who care for them and for people's economic livelihoods. Try to join in this powerful prayer, seeking God's intervention for our country and our world. *'Mary, pray for us who have recourse to you.'*

OPENING THE CHURCHES

July 4th seems to be the date set by the Government for this to happen for public worship. There is 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

St Bede the Venerable

Bill Elford, RIP

Tuesday

St Philip Neri

Ena Ryan, RIP

Wednesday

St Augustine, Apostle of England

Bridie Hynes

Thursday

Feria

Christy McCarthy

Friday

Feria

Michael Smith, RIP

Saturday

Feria

Malone Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

ROSARY: None at present

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None at present.

CLEANING: None at present.

FLOWERS:

NEXT SUNDAY: Feast of Pentecost

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.** Thanks to all those continuing to give.

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

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 robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk or 020 72197335.

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 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 17:1-11

“Sic transit gloria mundi.” “So passes the glory of the world.” This counsel was held over the head of a conquering general in the imperial army of Rome when he entered the city to the applause of the crowd as a reminder not to get too proud of his achievement; all things pass. Jesus, in his priestly prayer at the Last Supper in today’s gospel, talks about glory. The glory that he has given to the Father and the glory that he was about to achieve in his death and resurrection. This would be rather different from what the world understands as glory. When Jesus is lifted up on the wood of the cross God’s glory is revealed in unconquerable love! It is a love which survives the grave. In his resurrection the Son is glorified by the Father. And now he is glorified in his disciples. That’s you and me! We glorify him in so far as we reveal him to others by genuine Christian lives. There are those in this world who will and do reject the Christian message. There remains a worldly power that believes in transitory glory. There is a Prince of this world who hates the one on the cross. But ours is also a world with people who have seen through this façade and seek something better and lasting. We have what they are looking for and so we are called, as disciples of the Lord, to share that good news with them. And Jesus prays for us in all our endeavours to live and witness to the truth. *“I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to me.”* Consoling to know that the Lord himself prays for us because we belong to him and he understands our weaknesses and our limitations and the difficulties that we encounter as his disciples. As St Peter reminds us, *“If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed.”* As we look forward to the feast of Pentecost next Sunday we call upon the Holy Spirit to convince us of the truth and the beauty of the gospel and the glory promised us in Christ.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph’s £658.00

Our Lady’s £130.00

Thank you.