

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

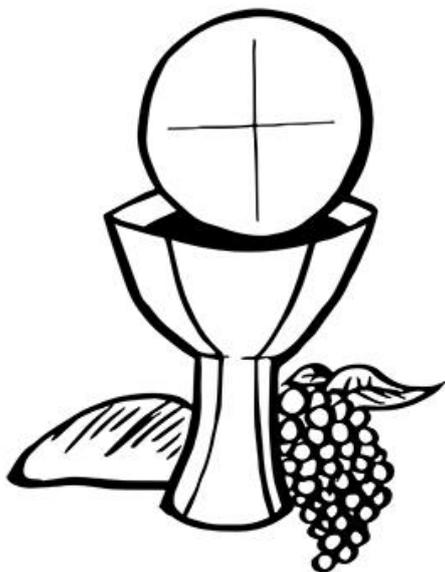
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant: Deacon Kevin Ryan

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CORPUS CHRISTI

14th June 2020



RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES

You will have heard the good news that we can now open our churches for private prayer as from Saturday 13th June. This is contingent on observing safe distancing and hygiene rules. Also, it is required that we have two stewards in place during the hours of opening. We are therefore looking for volunteers to fill this role. Please let me know if anyone can volunteer and on what day and time period. Instructions will be given. So the proposed hours of opening are 10am – 5pm in St Joseph's and 10am – 2pm in Our Lady's every day except for Sundays in St Joseph's when it will be from 12noon to 5pm. Confessions will be available in St Joseph's on Saturdays from 11.30am to 12.30pm, during which there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. There will also be exposition on Thursdays in the Reconciliation Chapel during the opening hours.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday

People of the Parish

Monday *Feria*

Jeann Gilbert & Antoinette, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

Aniefiok Livinus

Wednesday *Feria*

Patrick Summers, RIP

Thursday *Dedication of the Cathedral*

Kathleen Malone, RIP

Friday *The Most Sacred of Jesus*

Mary Fanning, RIP

Saturday *The Immaculate Heart of Mary*

James Foy, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

ROSARY: None at present

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm.

CLEANING: None at present.

FLOWERS:

NEXT SUNDAY: Twelfth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: None for the present

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's are now available for collection from the presbytery. A gentle reminder to continue your financial support of the parish, please. See below for the different ways in which you can do this. If you gift aid your donations and have envelopes, then please continue to use them. Thank you.

PARISH FINANCES

Please continue 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.

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.

CATHOLIC PAPERS

At the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can have it delivered direct to your home every week - postage free. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.

SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

As there will be no diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham this summer, we are invited to follow a Spiritual Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 13th June by going to www.walsingham.org.uk

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.

CORPUS CHRISTI REFLECTION Jn 6: 51-58

"Nowhere on earth are you more welcomed, nowhere on earth are you more loved than by Jesus, living and truly present in the most Blessed Sacrament. The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth." (St Teresa of Calcutta)

Now that the churches are re-opening from this Saturday for private prayer, we can visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and spend time in his company and experience that welcome or welcome back after what has been a long time away from his Eucharistic presence. On this feast of Corpus Christi we can renew our acquaintance with him in the Blessed Sacrament which, for us Catholics, is so special and dear. As we await the full celebration of the Mass we can come into his presence in prayer and adoration and be refreshed in our love and faith which has undergone a real trial this past while. In the gospel today Jesus speaks clearly, directly and unambiguously: *"The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world."* He goes on: *"My flesh is real food...my blood is real drink. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life."* The Blessed Sacrament is not a passive presence but an active, dynamic presence. We come into the real living presence of Christ. And we also come into a communion with one another when we celebrate Mass together. This spiritual communion unites us in a way that is deeper than any physical union. We become the mystical body of Christ. There is strength in this unity. We draw strength from Jesus and from one another in a communion of love. *"Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest."* We can now come to Jesus and find refreshment for our weary hearts and souls and look forward to when we shall meet together again to celebrate the wondrous gift of the Mass. *'Jesu, whom I look at shrouded here below, I beseech thee send me what I long for so. Some day to gaze on thee, face to face in light and be blest for ever with thy glory's sight.'* (St Thomas Aquinas).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offeratory

St Joseph's £750.00

Our Lady's £90.00

Thank you.