

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

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

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk

SS PETER & PAUL

28th June 2020

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday

People of the Parish

Monday *Feria*

Michael Smith, RIP

Tuesday *First Martyrs of the See of Rome*

Daniel Guerin

Wednesday *St Oliver Plunkett*

Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

Joyce Hamlett, RIP

Friday *St Thomas, Apostle*

Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

6.00pm Kathleen Keenan, RIP



GOOD NEWS

After much waiting and patience, (tried at times!), we can now resume the celebration of Mass, beginning this Saturday at 10.45am in St Joseph's and the Vigil Mass at Our Lady's at 6.00pm. The usual Sunday Mass schedule then in St Joseph's. We need to observe safe distancing of one metre (the pews have been marked out. Some households can obviously sit together), and be mindful of hygiene regulations (washing of hands). To this end we will need some volunteers after each Mass to wipe down the pews. Please consider helping with this. Materials will be provided, including disposable gloves. Sadly, no singing is allowed at the moment. Rejoice, though, that we are now able to come together to celebrate the Eucharist after such a long fast.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

From all my terrors the Lord will set me free.

ROSARY: None at present

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm

CLEANING: None at present.

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

ANNIVERSARY

Today's feast of SS Peter & Paul marks the 40th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, almost half of which I have spent happily here. I had planned to have a parish celebration at this time but, alas! Maybe sometime in the autumn. In the meantime, I invite you to join me in thanking God for the wonderful gift of the priesthood and ask your continued prayers for my ministry. Also, please remember in prayer the need for more priestly vocations, especially for our diocese. Remember, too, Bishop David who also celebrates 40 years.

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION

The Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended which means that you do not have to attend Mass on Sunday if you feel unready to do so. Indeed, attending a weekday Mass can be an alternative whilst the Sunday obligation remains suspended. This option will relieve the pressure of numbers on a Sunday.

OUR LADY'S KEMPSTON

The opening time for Our Lady's, Kempston, is from 10.30am – 12.30pm each day, during which there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

PARISH COLLECTION

To avoid passing the collection bags around at Sunday Mass, there will be a large box as you enter St Joseph's, marked Offertory Collection, into which you can place your offering. This can be done as you enter the church or as you leave. In Our Lady's, there will be a basket near the entrance in which you can place your offering. Thanks to all who continued with your weekly donations over the past three months. I didn't go short of jam with my tea!

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's are now available for collection from the back of the church. If you gift aid your donations and have envelopes, then please continue to use them. Thank you.

CATHOLIC PAPERS

These are now on sale again in the porch. Please place money in the wall-box marked 'Papers'.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Maureen Huxley, Patricia McDaid and Vivian Atem Acha. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

'To love and to pray; that is the happiness of man on earth.'

St John Vianney

SS PETER & PAUL Mt: 16:13-19

The trouble with many lives of the saints is that they are very one-sided. They tell of the miracles, the long hours spent in prayer, the fasting the selfless devotion they showed in caring for others and so on. But they are less informative about the other side of a saint's life, namely his or her human faults and failings. The result is that many of the saints appear to be almost super-human and certainly not the kind of people we would ever think of imitating. Fortunately, that kind of one-sidedness is not possible when we come to examine the lives of St Peter and St Paul. For almost everything we know about them is contained in the pages of the New Testament. And what does it tell us? Well, one obvious thing is that both Peter and Paul were thoroughly and unmistakably human. Their undoubted holiness is evident too but somehow neither of them seem to fit in with our conventional idea of what a saint should be. Peter was a good man, big-hearted and enthusiastic but also impetuous and inclined to bite off more than he could chew. And then Paul. His greatness is beyond question. His zeal for the gospel, his preaching and missionary journeys, his vision and depth of understanding of the mystery of Christ. But in his letters there is a hint that he was not always an easy person to get on with. He was passionate and fiery. He was touchy about his status as an apostle. Peter and Paul: two great saints but certainly not plaster saints. They were men first. Men who got scared as we do, men who argued and took offence and were impatient and cowardly as we often are. And yet Christ chose them to be his chief instruments in spreading the gospel, proving that God chooses real people to do his work. God can choose anybody. There is no blueprint in God's mind, no perfect type. God's children come in all shapes and sizes. All we need is something Peter & Paul had in abundance; a great desire to love Jesus Christ. That's the secret! God can do a lot with that desire to love and to serve. It made saints out of Peter and Paul and it will make saints out of us.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £425.00

Our Lady's £137.00

Thank you.