

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2nd August 2020



THE TABLE OF THE LORD

It was good to see a few more people at Mass last Sunday gathered around the table of the Lord where we hear the Good News as opposed to all the bad or negative news we are subjected to on our tv screens day after day! Where we celebrate and make welcome the real presence of Christ on our altar and feed our hungry spiritual lives. So I continue to encourage (nag) you to come together each Sunday and be family, be a community of believers who trust in the power of God and his closeness to us. And pray together to this same powerful God to end this pandemic and be close to those who have fallen ill and who grieve for lost loved ones and to receive the dead into his kingdom of light. Prayer must be part of our response to the present situation, handing to him what is impossible to us.

CLEANING AFTER MASS

Volunteers are needed to clean down the pews after each Mass, please.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Christopher Donnelly, RIP
11.00am Fr Eddie Matthews, RIP
6.30pm Bill Doyle

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Mary Donaghy, RIP

Tuesday *St John Vianney*

10.45am Mary Orr, RIP

Wednesday *Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major*

10.45am Joan Martin, RIP

Thursday *Transfiguration of the Lord*

10.45am Evelyn Foy, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Saturday *St Dominic*

10.45am Sybil Lanong

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Ann Glackin

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Nwankwo, Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

ENTERING AND EXITING THE CHURCH

Please enter St Joseph's through the Brereton Road entrance and exit through the Midland Road door at the very back of the church. If this is a problem for some, then use the Brereton Road door and ramp. In Our Lady's, Kempston, please enter the usual door and if possible exit the fire exit door by the altar or the door by the sacristy.

CATHOLIC BEDFORD

Visit: www.catholicbedford.wordpress.com for news in the Bedford Pastoral Area.

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 donation and have envelopes, then please continue to use them. Thank you.

OUR LADY'S KEMPSTON

The opening times for Our Lady's, Kempston, are from 10.30am to 12.30pm each weekday for private prayer and 10.30am to 12noon on Sundays during which there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Additionally, there will be exposition on a Friday between 2.30pm & 3.30pm.

SVP – KNOCK & DROP

The Bedford District of the SVP have been providing food parcels and support for vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic. This service does not compete with the Foodbank but differs from it in the following ways;

- We provide support on a regular basis, weekly if required.
- We develop an ongoing relationship with recipients of the parcels.
- We deliver to the recipients home
- We also deliver to those self-isolating and have no one else to help.
- We offer social distance support each time we deliver.

A box will be placed in the church during next week and, if you can, please place any donations of non-perishable food in the box. Please also let us know if you need any help or know of anyone who does. You can speak to Canon Seamus or call us on 07399 507218.

CAFOD APPEAL

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to help CAFOD scale up its response through our global Church family.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 14:13-21

There is no doubt about it! Jesus performed a stupendous miracle that day in the sight of the vast crowd when he fed them with the loaves and the fish. But it wasn't his intention merely to astound the crowd by this miracle. He performed miracles out of compassion but always they were pointers to something else. In this miracle we can see two things. We can see how our own feebleness can be multiplied into strength through union with Christ. The five loaves and two fish were insufficient to feed so many people but when placed in Our Lord's hands they receive the marvellous power of multiplication. Our minds and hearts, all our faculties, our actions however insignificant in themselves take on great importance once they are allied with Christ. Our whole life placed in his hands becomes full of greatness and meaning. The other important truth this miracle points to and foreshadows is the Eucharist when our Lord, at the last supper, would take in his hands bread and wine, bless them and distribute to his apostles his own body and blood. From then onwards this bread of life would be offered all over the world to countless millions. And just as at the feeding of the 5,000 there were baskets full of food left over, showing how generous our Lord is in giving, so the divine bread that he gives would be a generous giving. Every tabernacle in the world is a proof of that. God is always lavish with his gifts, an inspiration to be similarly generous when called upon to give of our time and resources especially when it comes to feeding the hungry and helping the poor. St Paul tells us that the love of God is made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord. That same love is made visible in you and me insofar as we concern ourselves with the needs of others. We are weak and often fail but placing our poor efforts in our Lord's hands will change weakness into strength and multiply the love of God in our hearts. *"Whatever you do to the least of these you do to me."*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1346.81

Our Lady's £400.50

Thank you.