

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

5th July 2020



WELCOME BACK

It is a joy to welcome you back to Sunday Mass! This long fast from the Eucharist has been a trial for all who understand the importance of the Mass for us Catholics. In compliance with regulations, the congregation is obliged to wear a face-covering (provided, as you enter), as I have opted for the *one metre plus* distancing option in order to allow for more capacity in church. If this is not workable, we will have to revert to 2 metres distancing when no face covering is required. So, please be patient as we try to work out what is best. The pews have been measured - 3 persons to a pew or more if from the same household. The central aisle has been marked as you come to Communion, one row at a time. Please be observant of this. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand only. The host will be given in silence with no response.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Canon Seamus Keenan
11.00am Franc Rozman, RIP
6.30pm Maureen Huxley, RIP

Monday *St Maria Goretti*

10.45am Evelyn Foy

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Peter Lewis, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Sandy Grove, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Paddy Keane, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Patrick & Aisling King

Saturday *St Benedict*

10.45am Susan & Peter Byrne & Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Kathleen Keenan, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will bless your name forever, O God, my King.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm.

CLEANING: Mukuze, Kahari, Ndoro.

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifteenth 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 using the fire exit door by the altar or the door by the sacristy.

CLEANING AFTER MASS

Volunteers are needed to clean down the pews after each Mass. Materials will be provided for this. This is an important part of the compliance regulations. Please consider helping.

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION

The Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended which means 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 dispensation will relieve the pressure of numbers on a Sunday.

OUR LADY'S KEMPSTON

The opening times for Our Lady's, Kempston, is 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.

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.

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.

THANKS

Thanks to all who sent kind and prayerful greetings on the occasion of my 40th anniversary.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia McDaid and Domenico De Rosa. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 11:25-30

"All humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit in a room alone." (Blaise Pascal)

Well, you might think that there has been a little too much of that these past weeks and months in lockdown! True, but at the same time he has a point. Caught up in the business of life we forget the purpose of life. This enforced pause when we have had to sit in our room has perhaps helped us to be more reflective and to assess our lives, and especially our spiritual lives of faith. More time to pray, to read, to reflect, to prioritise and so on. *"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest... learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart."* Jesus invites us to come to him and find rest for our weary hearts and to learn from him. And what do we learn? Be gentle, gentle with others and gentle with yourself. Resist being harsh and judgemental. Be patient, be understanding. And be humble. Acknowledge your need of God and get to know the person of Jesus by accepting that invitation to come to him and you will find rest for your souls. This message is for those who are not so grown up as to be small, to be like little children. *"I bless you Father... for revealing these things to mere children."* It is not the self-sufficient, learned and clever who receive the gift of enlightenment. Their minds are too full already and blocked by presumption and prejudice. The message is given to children, to those whose minds are still open and unformed. God is drawn to those who are child-like, those who are open in mind and heart. And that is what we are called to be so that he can enter in and share his rest with us, *"for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* Humility is at the heart of this, a humble acknowledgement of our need of God. We like to think that we are in control, that we have got it all worked out, and then something like a virus comes along! We feel suddenly vulnerable and fearful. Perhaps this is a providential opportunity to renew our security and trust in Him who unburdens our hearts and *'who gives suck to our souls' infancy.* (St Augustine)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £550.00

Our Lady's £

Thank you.