

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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

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

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
12th July 2020



SUNDAY MASS

It was good to see some of you back to Sunday Mass last week. Whilst the numbers were low it was with a sense of joy and thanksgiving that we are now able to come together to celebrate the Mass. It is going to take some time to revert to our normal Sunday celebrations as we are not yet allowed singing in the Mass and with several people still shielding or feeling unready to return just yet. But don't let the fear of a crowded church keep you away as there is plenty capacity at all the Masses. So, it is a start, even though rather tentative. Even if you are unable to attend, please consider financially supporting the parish as our income has been severely reduced and bills still need to be met. You can post a cheque payable to either St Joseph's Parish, Bedford or Our Lady of Ransom, Kempston. Thanks to all those who have done so during the lockdown.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Bill & Angela Letch
	11.00am	Patricia McDaid, RIP
	6.30pm	Michael Kinsella, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Mee Family
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Roy Last, RIP
Wednesday	<i>St Bonaventure</i>	
	10.45am	Terry Youngman, RIP
Thursday	<i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</i>	
	10.45am	Patricia McDaid, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Paigide McDonald, RIP & Ann
Saturday	<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>	
	10.45am	Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Bridget Leydon, RIP
----------	--------	---------------------

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Nwankwo, Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

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.

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 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.

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 – 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.

CATHOLIC HERALD

To subscribe to the monthly edition of the Catholic Herald magazine at £59.99 per annum go to www.catholicherald.co.uk/subscribe

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Kinsella, Patricia McDaid and Domenico De Rosa. May they rest in the peace of the Lord. **Michael Kinsella's funeral Mass will be this Monday at 3.00pm in St Joseph's.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 13:1-23

"Imagine a sower going out to sow..." This is how Jesus begins that well known parable of the Sower. Sitting there in the boat as the crowds stood on the shore, Jesus illustrates his teaching through familiar and ordinary events: through the language of work, of weather, of nature. He incarnates the divine wisdom, making it accessible. But we have to make an effort to understand, and he is saddened by the fact that many do not or do not want to. They listen but do not hear; they see but do not perceive; they will not allow themselves to understand because if they do it might change their lives. Jesus knew this, he knows what is in man. Many turn away with a shrug and, like the seed landing on rocky ground, let his words die without entering their hearts. You know how it is. You are talking to someone and you realise they are not listening; they glaze over. Hurtful and disconcerting! The word of God, spoken by Jesus, must be listened to with careful and prayerful attention. We know how difficult that can be at times, so we ask the Lord to give us a listening heart; a receptive heart, which allows his word to take root and bear fruit in our lives. And his word is life-giving and life-changing! *"As the rain and snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth...so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, succeeding in what it was sent to do."* (Isaiah). It can only succeed, though, if we are receptive to it and not allow the distractions and cares of life choke the word, thus producing no life-giving fruit. As long as we are open to God's word then the harvest will take care of itself. *"Blessed are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear."* We are blessed because we have received the seed of God's word which brings healing, comfort and conversion. In a world where words are often hateful or depressing, we need that time to listen to God's still small voice in the quiet of prayer and so allow its healing balm to cover us and restore that real sense of hope and joy so easily lost in the verbiage of the world.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1446.94

Our Lady's £1276.50

Thank you.