

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

19th July 2020



SUNDAY MASS

The Prime Minister has encouraged us to emerge from lockdown and enter again into the community (whilst observing safety precautions), to kick-start the economy. I think we need to do the same on the spiritual level and kick-start our spiritual lives of faith. Coming to Mass is an important way of doing this, and whilst the Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended, we should still remember the centrality of Sunday Mass, the Lord's Day. So I would encourage you to come together as God's family on the Lord's Day, knowing that safety measures are in place and we can worship together without being fearful. The choice remains yours. It would be good to see you.

CLEANING AFTER MASS

Volunteers are needed to clean down the pews after each Mass. Materials are provided for this.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Fr William Wells, RIP
	11.00am	Turner Family
	6.30pm	Eamon Caherty, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	James Foy, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Eamon Caherty, RIP
Wednesday	<i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	
	10.45am	Family Intention
Thursday	<i>St Bridget of Sweden</i>	
	10.45am	Susan Edwards, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Rosemary Donaghy
Saturday	<i>St James</i>	
	10.45am	Rachel & Sean Lewis & Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Marie Moylan Reidy, RIP
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, Odell, George

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

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.

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 – 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 is a large box at the entrance of 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. 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

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Since the closure of the Good News Magazine the CCR is trying other ways of communicating effectively. One way is the website: www.ccr.org.uk also you can email eddiebrozdziak@gmail.com to be added to the database. Good News Books are still open for business and they can be found online at www.goodnewsbooks.co.uk

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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rosemary Donaghy. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 13:24-43

Jesus presents three parables in the gospel today for us to think about, concerning the kingdom of God. He does not impose his kingdom on the world with a mighty force but it is compared to a tender plant that grows gradually. Like a mustard seed, it starts as something tiny and inconsequential and then becomes something of substance. Likewise, the yeast in the dough makes it ferment causing the bread to become light and airy. The change

effected is out of proportion to the size of seed and yeast. In the same way the reign of God will come from small beginnings bringing about a tremendous growth. Alongside that growth, though, there will be other forces which will try to impede it and even destroy it. People loving and people fighting, some building up while others tear down, some healing while others hurt. Within ourselves we, too, can perceive those opposing forces working. Such is our fallen world and fallen selves. But the Holy Spirit is at work bringing about a fruitful harvest if we persevere in the good and not allow the light of God to become dim but rather shine upon us, so giving growth. Kingdom people, which is what we are, seek to serve rather than dominate. They prefer invitation to force. We are not meant to be judgemental of others, since it is not our task to do the weeding out. In various small ways we follow Jesus whenever we affirm gospel values, assist the weak, be patient and make peace. We see in the gospel today the great patience of God who allows good and evil to co-exist. This is the price of human freedom. But there will come a day, Jesus reminds us, when mercy must give way to divine justice, when we shall have to give an account of how we have used our freedom for good or ill. And then, all that provokes offences and evil will be dealt with. Until that day, we live in a time of mercy and we are to exercise mercy ourselves as children of the kingdom. As the saying goes, *'To err is human, to forgive is divine.'* The growth of the kingdom depends on exercising that same loving mercy that brought Jesus into the world for its salvation. comfort and conversion. In a world where words are often hateful or deceitful, 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 £1087.78

Our Lady's £390.10

Thank you.