

# 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](http://www.stjosephsbedford.org) Email: [stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk)

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020



### LIVE STREAMING

Live-streaming of Mass has been a great blessing during the period of lockdown and continues to be so for those unable or unready to emerge from self-isolation yet. It can never, however, be a substitute for the celebration of Mass in person where we worship together as God's family and receive the sacred Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. So I just want to encourage you to make that effort of being physically present at Mass, especially on a Sunday, and to be present to one another as a community. I especially want to encourage families with young children to come together for Sunday Mass and enjoy again that sense of belonging to the wider family of the parish. Our spiritual lives are so important and precious. We must nourish and take care of them for our own sake and for our children's sake.

### 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 Maura Boschmann  
11.00am Fr John Berry, RIP  
6.30pm Varghese & Suja

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Ena Taylor

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Michael Smith, RIP

Wednesday **St Martha**

10.45am Requiem: Ann Lewarne

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Anja Hruškar

Friday **St Ignatius Loyola**

10.45am Yvonka Market

Saturday **St Alphonsus Liguori**

10.45am Mrs Flood

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Joan Slater

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord how I love your law.**

**ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm**

**CLEANING: Mukuze, Kahari, Ngoro**

**FLOWERS: Mrs Crow**

**NEXT SUNDAY: Eighteenth Sunday of the Year**

**Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1**

**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.

### FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for peace and an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

## **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.

## **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](http://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](http://www.ccr.org.uk) also you can email [eddiedrozdziaak@gmail.com](mailto:eddiedrozdziaak@gmail.com) to be added to the database. Good News Books are still open for business: online at [www.goodnewsbooks.co.uk](http://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](http://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 Ann Lewarne. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

*'Let us learn from Christ how to pray, to forgive, to sow peace, and to be near those in need.'*

Pope Francis

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 13:44-52**

The human heart is drawn to what is good, beautiful and true. Why? Because that is what we are made for! Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven in today's gospel to be like a treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great price. And we are to do all we can to take possession of it. The danger is that we become so pre-occupied with the kingdom of this world that we lose sight of this treasure. Keeping our eyes on the prize is the whole purpose of our earthly pilgrimage. Difficult in the midst of so many other concerns and distractions and indeed the evil that is in the world in so many forms. We need to look up from those concerns and worries and contemplate our heavenly horizon. There is a passage in Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings', where Frodo and Sam are making their desperate and tormented journey across the land of Mordor to cast the Ring of Power into fire on Mount Doom. Peeping through the clouds in the night sky, Sam saw a white star twinkle. The beauty of it smote his heart and hope returned to him, for the thought pierced him that there is light and high beauty forever beyond the reach of evil. Sam had looked not simply horizontally but vertically to that star which spoke to God's unsullied creation where evil and ruin cannot come and, so gazing, he was healed. We need to gaze upon the beauty of God in prayer every day and in so doing we, too, shall be healed. Healed of anxieties, worries, fears and all that would rob us of our joy. We need to look up from our earthly concerns frequently to see where we are going and to contemplate the pearl of great price, the treasure which at present lies hidden but is real and within our grasp. Only the person of faith can see what the world, with its pre-occupations, cannot see. We are made for the contemplation of all that is good, beautiful and true. When Howard Carter was asked could he see anything when peering into the tomb of Tutankhamun he replied, with astonishment, "Yes, wonderful things!" We, too, will see wonderful things if we care to look; that hidden treasure, that pearl of great price!

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1033.20**

**Our Lady's £222.80**

**Thank you.**