

# 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)

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
OF THE YEAR**  
9<sup>th</sup> August 2020



## **BE OF GOOD CHEER**

Looking down from the altar at Mass at a sea of masked faces, it is difficult to read the mood of people. In a way masks hide us from one another so I don't know if you are wearing a cheerful or sad countenance. I pray it is a cheerful one despite everything. Jesus said that *'in the world you will have trouble but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'* In a sense we have a duty to be cheerful as Christians, not in an artificial way but from a deep faith and trust in the Lord. We, therefore, entrust this present time to him in prayer. The Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy are powerful prayers before God. Consider praying them and place ourselves and our world in his hands.

## **CLEANING AFTER MASS**

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

## **Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford**

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Fr Frederick Miles, RIP
	11.00am	Niamh Rafferty
	6.30pm	Michael Kinsella, RIP
Monday	<b>St Lawrence</b>	
	10.45am	Merin Bino
Tuesday	<b>St Clare</b>	
	10.45am	Walter Higgins, RIP
Wednesday	<b>Feria</b>	
	10.45am	Kaj Hansen
Thursday	<b>Feria</b>	
	10.45am	Margaret Laing
Friday	<b>St Maximilian Kolbe</b>	
	10.45am	Patricia McDaid, RIP
Saturday	<b>Votive Mass of Our lady</b>	
	10.45am	Sylvia Blackburn

## **Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston**

Saturday	6.00pm	Fr John Beirne
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)  
St Joseph's:**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Cummings, Petts, Bahoum

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Gil

**NEXT SUNDAY: Assumption of Our Lady**

**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.

## **CATHOLIC BEDFORD**

Visit: [www.catholicbedford.wordpress.com](http://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 – 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.

## **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 recipient's 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 07399 507218.

## **PRAYER & FASTING FOR LIFE**

The Good Counsel Network invites us to a National Day of Prayer & Fasting for Life this Friday, praying for an end to abortion and euthanasia. Details of this initiative can be seen on the noticeboard.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 14:22-33**

Sudden unexpected storms are common on the Lake of Galilee. Such was the case when the apostles were making their way across the lake as recounted in the gospel today. They were making little headway and they began to fear. Their fear was suddenly compounded when they saw what looked like a ghost walking across the water. But Jesus reassured them: *“Courage!” he called out, “It is I. Do not be afraid.”* Peter was the first to regain his composure. *“Lord,”* he said, *“if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.”* *“Come”* said Jesus. Peter stepped out in faith and started to walk towards Jesus. But then the wind and the waves blew away his faith and confidence and he began to sink. Fear gripped him and he calls out, *“Lord! Save me!”* Peter had taken his eyes off Jesus and began noticing the wind and waves. Fear is a natural reaction to danger real or imagined. It can grip us and we become paralysed. Like a virus, fear is infectious. How can we mitigate such fear? How can we release ourselves from being frozen in a cobweb of fear? Do what Peter forgot to do. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and call out to him in prayer, *‘Lord! Save me!’* Invite him to share the experience with you and once we do that there will be calm again, even though on the surface of life there may still be stormy waters. But now we have someone with us who alone can restore calm just as happened when Jesus got into the boat with his disciples. Invite him in prayer to step into your particular boat and keep your eyes of faith fixed on him. Once we turn away we will be subject to all sorts of fears and indeed temptations, especially the temptation to stop believing or trusting that he cares and can restore peace and joy to our troubled lives. This present moment is a testing time for all of us but we must not lose our nerve, we must not look away from Jesus who will stretch out his hand, take hold of us and save us from sinking into anxiety and fear. *“Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.”*

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1237.32**

**Our Lady's £271.00**

**Thank you.**