

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

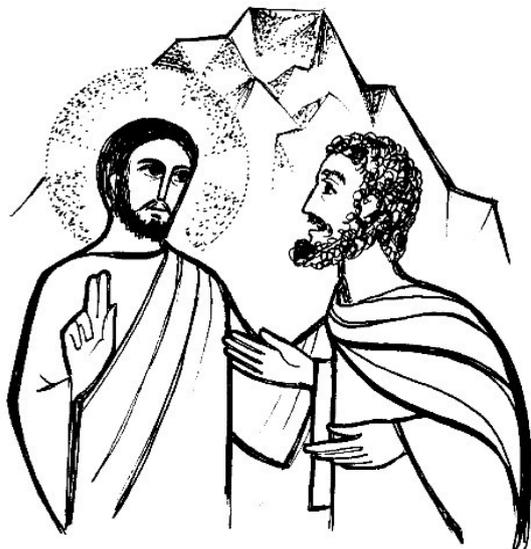
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TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

23rd August 2020



MISSIO RED BOXES

It is that time again when those who have the Red Missio Boxes are asked to hand them in to the sacristy or presbytery and to pick up a new one if you wish to continue helping the missions in this way. You can Gift Aid your contributions by signing your name on the bottom of the box. A postcard is to found at the back of the church explaining other ways of donating if this is easier. If delivering the box to the church is difficult at the moment, please contact the number on the bottom of the box and leave a message with your name and contact details and it will be collected. Thank you for your on-going support for the missions.

FIRST COMMUNION 2021

Enrolment forms for First Communion classes beginning this autumn are now available from the sacristy. We are limiting numbers to 20 children who regularly attend Mass here.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Fr John O'Halloran, RIP
11.00am Clarkson
6.30pm Michael Kinsella, RIP

Monday *St Bartholomew*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Wednesday *Blessed Dominic Barbarie*

10.45am Sandy Grove, RIP

Thursday *St Monica*

10.45am Mary Orr, RIP

Friday *St Augustine*

10.45am Mary & Alan Wright, RIP

Saturday *The Passion of St John the Baptist*

10.45am Michael Smith, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Helen Halpin, RIP

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.**

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Nwankwo, Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Second 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.

CLEANING AFTER MASS

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

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.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

The Holy Land pilgrimage scheduled for this October has been postponed to the 12th – 19th April next year. Anyone interested in joining this pilgrimage, please let me know.

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 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.

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 marked Knock & Drop is at the back of the church to place 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.

CATHOLIC BEDFORD

Visit: www.catholicbedford.wordpress.com for news in the Bedford Pastoral Area.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 16:13-20

We are all familiar with opinion polls. Jesus in the gospel conducts a mini opinion poll among his apostles. *'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'* After proffering several worthy names, Jesus then puts the question directly to them. *'But you; who do say I am?'* To his own surprise, Peter blurts out, *'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'* Where did that come from?! Jesus himself recognised what had happened. This wasn't a step that Peter or anyone could take alone. It could only be taken with God's help. It was nothing less than a gift of God. And that is what faith is; a gift of God. But we need to be open to receiving it and that means uncluttering our hearts to the possibility of such a gift. Many there are who remain closed to the gift of faith and so never come to the joy of knowing Jesus. We can know about the historical Jesus, learning facts and listening to opinions but to truly know him we have to enter into a personal relationship with him. That takes time and effort like any relationship. We need to work at it and gradually we will begin to walk together not as strangers but as friends. One thing I avoid these days is endless debates about God and religion. It's like talking about someone who is in the room! I want to talk to him, not about him unless it is to help someone's genuine search for God. Prayer is the way into the mystery of God and there he will reveal himself to us as he did to Peter. So much time is wasted on frivolous things instead of giving time to the one who is in the room of one's heart, waiting for a word of recognition from us, waiting for a word of love, of thanksgiving, of praise. How we answer that question, *who do say I am*, will be a good indication of the quality of our faith and relationship with the Lord. If we can answer with Peter, *'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'*, then nothing can be the same again. We enter into a new way of living, a new way of being and a new destiny. We are no longer just citizens of this world but pilgrims making our way to the city of the living God, the eternal Jerusalem.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £928.94

Our Lady's £176.00

Thank you.