

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

30th August 2020



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Fr Stephen Foster, RIP
	11.00am	Canon Norman Smith, RIP
	6.30pm	Hutchenson Family
Monday		<i>St Aiden & the Saints of Lindisfarne</i>
	10.45am	Fernando & Paula Mulado, RIP
Tuesday		<i>Feria</i>
	10.45am	Ceclia Bécot
Wednesday		<i>Feria</i>
	10.45am	Requiem: Bernadette Ransarran
Thursday		<i>Pope St Gregory the Great</i>
	10.45am	Luckose Mathai, RIP
Friday		<i>St Cuthbert</i>
	10.45am	Sandy Grove, RIP
Saturday		<i>St Teresa of Kolkatta</i>
	10.45am	Sister Antoneatta, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Mary & Alan Frost
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OUR LADY'S, KEMPSTON

This coming Friday, Saturday and next Sunday the church will be open for private prayer as usual from 10.30am to 12.30pm but there will be no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on those days.

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.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, Bahoum

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Third Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

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. Forms must be returned to the presbytery by Sunday 27th September.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

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

CATHOLIC BEDFORD

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

TALK TO PARENTS

There will be a talk to the parents of the children making their First Holy Communion this October this Thursday at 7.00pm in St Joseph's church.

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.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The charity EVC Uganda, which provides a future for some of the poorest children in the world through education, is seeking a volunteer Website Development Manager. For further details please contact Ted Fawcett on 838134 or email: tedfawcett@hotmail.com

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.

REQUISCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the souls of Bernadette Ramsarran, Sister Lucy of Turvey Abbey and Jane Ennis. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 16:21-27

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross and follow me." When we hear these words of Jesus, we usually associate the carrying of the cross with some form of suffering relating to our health, our relationships, our status or this present pandemic. But Jesus is quite specific: *'If you want to be a follower of mine...'* So it's not just any old cross but it relates to discipleship of the Lord. If we are faithful to our calling in Christ, in trying to do the will of God, then that will involve the cross of renunciation, for it is a following that is realised in resistance to the prevailing ethos. *"Do not model yourself on the behaviour of the world around you,"* St Paul says in the second reading today. We can easily empty the cross of its power and significance by calling everything we suffer 'carrying the cross.' The common vexations of life which visit everyone may be means of grace and growth depending on our response. But to take up the cross demands more than this. It means a readiness to take a stand and suffer the consequences of our choice for the Lord. The doctor who loses promotion because of his pro-life position; the employee who is frozen out because he will not be party to underhand practices; the young person who is ridiculed because he or she attends Mass or wants to live a chaste life; the couple who are misunderstood as they try to live by Church teaching on marriage and family. The cross is costly. It is counter-cultural. When we take up the cross of fidelity to the gospel we walk a difficult road. Sometimes feeling alone, laughed at, scared. The paradox is that when we, however feebly, take up the cross, when we die to self-centeredness or self-preservation, then we experience that peace which the world cannot give. When we persevere in faith we become true disciples of the Lord. The cross always leads to life, as it did for Christ, and he is with us all along the way helping us carry our cross which he makes light for us. Let us walk together, looking out for each other, as we draw towards the eternal day.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1152.38

Our Lady's £668.00

Thank you.