

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

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**TWENTY THIRD  
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**  
6<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is a new Liturgical Season for the Catholic community globally. It extends from 1<sup>st</sup> September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Season focuses on God as Creator of the universe, God's revelation in creation and our calling to care for creation, protect its rich diversity and address the urgent, destructive crisis threatening its health and future. The prayers of the Mass over the next five Sundays will reflect this concern for the earth and our duty to be responsible stewards of God's creation. On this first Sunday of the Season of Creation, the scriptures call us to accept our prophetic responsibility in love to invite each other to conversion and care for creation in these times ecological concern.

## Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish  
9.30am Fr John Coghlan, RIP  
11.00am Louise Baldrey & Family  
6.30pm Evelyn Foy, RIP

Monday *Feria*  
10.45am Heidi Billingham

Tuesday *Nativity of Our Lady*  
10.00am Alexander Brannan, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*  
10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Thursday *Feria*  
10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Friday *Feria*  
10.45am Amanda Blackall & Family

Saturday *The Most Holy Name of Mary*  
10.45am Sarah Earley

## Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Marie Moylan Reidy, RIP

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Mukuze, Kahari, Ngoro

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Price

**NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Fourth Sunday of the Year**

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 3

**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 27<sup>th</sup> September.

## SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection for the Holy Land Shrines after all Masses next Sunday.

## CATHOLIC BEDFORD

Visit: [www.catholicbedford.wordpress.com](http://www.catholicbedford.wordpress.com) for news in the Bedford Pastoral Area.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

Mass this Tuesday will be at 10.00am in St Joseph's.

## **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](mailto:tedfawcett@hotmail.com)

## **SVP – KNOCK & DROP**

The Bedford District of the SVP have been providing food parcels and support for vulnerable people during the COVI- 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 Sister Lucy of Turvey Abbey and Jane Ennis. Funeral Mass for Jane Ennis this Friday at 12noon in St Joseph's.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 18:15-20**

This week and next week in the gospel readings we have parts of what is called the community sermon because it deals with our relationships with each other. In the background we have the constant theme of forgiveness and kindness based on genuine love. St Paul, in the second reading today, sums it all up nicely when he talks about not getting into debt except the debt of mutual love. Paul reminds us that love is the answer to every one of the commandments because it is the only thing that cannot hurt your neighbour. Christ is very explicit what action should be taken when two people have a row. If there has been a disagreement, the worst thing we can do is brood over it and let it fester inside. Doing that can poison the whole mind and give such a phobia about it that we can't think of anything else. He exhorts us to talk it over, and even if we are unsuccessful, the attempt will have done no harm and the lines of communication will have remained open. It's all very down to earth and practical advice that the Lord gives us and good for our psychological well-being. We were created out of love and goodness and, unlike plants and animals, God made us human and that means with a mind and will of our own. As such, we are capable of the best and of the worst. Why does God allow the worst to happen, then? Why doesn't he stop it? The answer, of course, is that he could, but if he did it would take away our humanity and freedom, reducing us to puppets. That would do away with the whole notion of the creation of men and women made in God's image, made to live happily with him ever after. We can only reach that goal by living as well as we can, under grace, with Christ's teachings to guide us, knowingly and willingly and freely. We live with the contradictions of good and evil, love and hate and so do not always do the things we know we should. Mutual love is not an easy business and it may be that our attempts at reconciliation fail. Yet the love we have shown in doing so cannot harm the other person whereas our indifference and our pride can.

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £988.50**

**Our Lady's £294.50**

**Thank you.**