

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

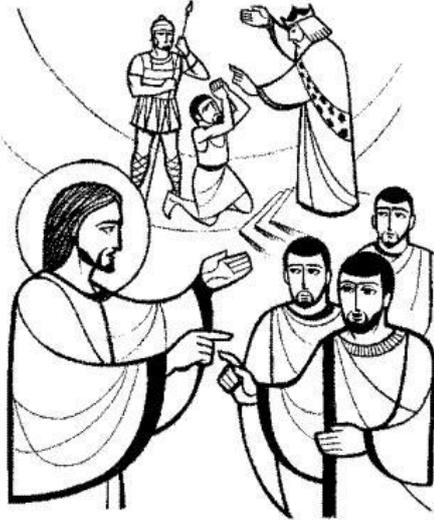
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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## TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

13<sup>th</sup> September 2020



### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Joseph & Aleyamma, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Fr Joseph McGovern, RIP
	6.30pm	Aleyamma Varkey
Monday		<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>
	10.45am	John Podesta, RIP
Tuesday		<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>
	10.45am	Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP
Wednesday		<i>Ss Cornelius &amp; Cyprian</i>
	10.45am	John D Santos, RIP
Thursday		<i>St Robert Bellarmine</i>
	10.45am	Frederick J Chavez, RIP
Friday		<i>Feria</i>
	10.45am	Alan Wright, RIP
Saturday		<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>
	10.45am	Mary Wright, RIP

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	James Ryan, RIP
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### MESSAGE

If you go to the parish website you will find a short YouTube message from me relating to the present situation of the pandemic and how we can respond to it as believing Christians. Our faith can help us through this trying time and offer comfort and hope.

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

A reminder to all Confirmation candidates that there will be a class and rehearsal this Saturday at 2.30pm in St Joseph's church. The date for the Confirmation Mass is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm in St Joseph's.

### SECOND COLLECTION

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

### SEASON OF CREATION

Again, the prayers of the Mass will reflect our duty towards the care of creation in gratitude to the Creator.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Daniels, Nwankwo, Okonkwo, Ngere

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Price

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

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 4

**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.

### CHURCH CLEANING

Volunteers are needed to help with church cleaning in St Joseph's on a Friday morning after the 10.45am Mass on a rota basis. Please let me know if you can help.

## **ORDINATION**

Deacon Daniel Rooke will be ordained to the sacred priesthood on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September in The Holy Child & St Joseph's Church, Bedford at 12noon. Unfortunately, because of the current restrictions, attendance has to be an 'invitation only' occasion. His first Mass, however, will be celebrated the following day at 11.00am in St Joseph's.

## **ONLINE WEBINARS**

Pope Francis has called the Church to reflect on our current situation. In response, the diocesan Pastoral Ministry Office is hosting a series of online webinars on Monday evenings through the autumn. We begin on 21<sup>st</sup> September with Bishop David reflecting on the last six months and posing some key questions. Other topics include reaching out to the needy, building community, prayer and spirituality, and catechesis. The webinars are free to attend but you will need to register to receive the web link. For more information and to register go to [www.postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk)

## **SVP – KNOCK & DROP**

The Bedford District of the SVP have been providing food parcels and support for vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic. A box marked Knock & Drop is at the back of the church to place donations of non-perishable food in the box, especially tins of potatoes and fruit. 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.

## **SPUC PETITION**

Bills are being introduced to Parliament seeking to restrict demonstrations in the vicinity of abortion clinics. SPUC is launching a petition calling upon the Home Secretary to uphold the right of peaceful, law-abiding pro-life citizens to save the lives of unborn children and to offer help to pregnant women. To sign the petition go to [www.spuc.org.uk/SaveTheRightToSaveLives](http://www.spuc.org.uk/SaveTheRightToSaveLives)

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 18:21-35**

To forgive another person is perhaps one of the most difficult things we are called to do, especially if the hurt goes deep. We need Our Lord to teach us by word and by his example how to go about it. His whole ministry was one of reconciliation. He made visible the mercy and forgiveness of God and indeed the whole Bible is a story of forgiveness. Christ was the embodiment of that forgiveness. He was generous towards failings and weaknesses and ever ready to show mercy towards what was most hateful in men. At the same time, the Lord expected his followers to have the same spirit of forgiveness because the Christian is, above all, one who has been forgiven by Christ. The refusal to share that forgiveness is a betrayal of Christ and a denial of the very purpose of Jesus' life and death – to win forgiveness for all humanity. After all, what do we say in the Lord's Prayer? *'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'* If we expect forgiveness from God then we must be prepared to forgive also, and this must be high on our list of priorities if we are to be heralds of his kingdom. We cannot, of course, be such if we nurture bitterness in our hearts. We sometimes hear the expression, *'I forgive but can never forget.'* It is true that we may remember incidents from the past but if we do so with bitterness and resentment it is an indication that we have not really forgiven. This does not mean that it is easy to forgive or that it is possible to forgive immediately. But because it is difficult, it is not, therefore, impossible. There are two principal helps to our readiness and duty to forgive: A greater appreciation of our own need of forgiveness and the power of prayer which can take away hurts, real or imagined, from our hearts, leaving us free to offer forgiveness to those who have offended us. God's mercy is infinite but our time is not. So, whilst time is on our side, let us exercise that which we ourselves expect to receive.

*'Heavenly Father, show me that to err is only too human, but to forgive is truly divine.'*

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1458.48**

**Our Lady's £196.00**

**Thank you.**