

# 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)

**TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF THE YEAR**  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## 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. Please pray for Daniel as he prepares for his ordination; a great blessing for him and honour for his family. Please pray, also, for more priestly vocations for our diocese.

## PLEASE NOTE

There will be no 10.45am Mass this Saturday and no Confessions in preparation for the ordination.

## CHURCH CLEANING

All church cleaners are asked to appear this Friday after the 10.45am Mass, please, to help in getting the church ready for the ordination

## Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Colin Randlesome, RIP  
9.30am Fr John Seabrook, RIP  
11.00am Andrew Hinde  
6.30pm James Foy, RIP

Monday *St Matthew*

10.45am Eulalia Canoza

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Kenneth & Elsie Petts, RIP

Wednesday *St Pio of Pietrelcina*

10.45am Kaziou Family

Thursday *Our Lady of Walsingham*

10.45am Varkey Joseph

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Kol Qershia, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am **No Mass**

## Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Joan Slater

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

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**The Lord is close to all who call him.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Cummings, Petts, Ngere

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Redmond

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

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 1

**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.

## **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.

## **THANK YOU**

The SVP wishes to thank all who have contributed to the Knock & Drop initiative. You can still do so as the need is on-going. A Mass will be said for all benefactors.

## **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.

## **BEDFORD FOODBANK**

The following items are needed for the Bedford Foodbank: cup-a-soup, tinned rice pudding, coffee, rice (small), toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand soap, anti-bac spray cleaners, washing up liquid, shower gel, laundry wash tablets, deodorant, cleaning cloths. These can be left in the green bin at the back of the church in St Joseph's or the box in Our Lady's.

## **REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary O'Keefe. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mt 20:1-16**

The vineyard, and in particular the harvesting of grapes, is a recurrent theme in both Old and New Testaments. In today's parable it is where people are invited to work, a source of good employment for those who would be otherwise left without work or pay. The urgency of the task means that the owner is eager to bring in all the workers he can. All is satisfactory till the end of the day when the wages are distributed. Those who laboured throughout the day are disappointed because they are not paid more than those who have only worked half the day or less. They are paid what was agreed but the owner, by paying the latecomers first, raises their hopes of receiving more, only to dash them by keeping to the original agreement. As is often the case in parables the details may appear unfair to the modern eye. The story is not a tract on relations of production and employment. For Jesus, the question is ultimately a test of whether we are possessive and envious or whether we share in his own and the Father's generosity. Jesus asks us to be good workers in his vineyard. He wants us to work hard with a recognition of the urgency of the task in hand and he wants us to welcome all who join in the work with us at whatever level. God calls us all, each in his or her own way. We have an allotted task and our business is to find out what that task is and then carry it out as well as we can. And to do so without envy of others or jealousy. This can hinder rather than help the harvest. Without eyeing others, our duty is to turn up each day and work our patch. That's all that needs to bother us. We leave the rest to the Lord and his generosity. It is only when we are confident that God loves us all equally, that he has no favourites, that we can get on with our lives and allow God's own generosity to expand our hearts and rid us of any jealousy that may lurk there. The Lord then invites us to be generous as he is generous in our dealings with others. Indeed we are invited to share the lavish love God has for all his people, good, bad and in between, for we are all beggars before God's mercy.

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1210.25**

**Our Lady's £198.00**

**Thank you.**

**Holy Land Shrines**

**St Joseph's £359.93**

**Our Lady's £61.70**