

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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**TWENTY NINTH
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
18th October 2020



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

A retiring collection will be taken after all Masses today for World Mission Sunday, when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to this collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. You can also donate online by going to www.missio.org.uk/donate or calling 020 7821 9755. Thank you.

STEWARDS NEEDED

We can only keep the church open for private prayer if there are stewards on duty between 12noon and 5pm each day in St Joseph's. If you can donate your time for an hour or two, please let me know.

THE ROSARY

This is the month of the Holy Rosary, a powerful prayer before God. Maybe we could promise to say it every day for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. Great miracles are worked through this prayer.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Jane McMonagle, RIP
	11.00am	Fr Tom Jordan, RIP
	6.30pm	Karen, Clare Moubarak & Family
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Dennis Gilbert, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	James Foy, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Heidi Billingham
Thursday	<i>Pope St John Paul II</i>	
	10.45am	Flower Moran, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Saturday	<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>	
	10.45am	Rowland Morgan, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Richard Martin, RIP
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give the Lord glory and power.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 10am – 5pm

CLEANING: Ndoro, Kahari

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond & Mrs Vaz

NEXT SUNDAY: Thirtieth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

CONTACT TRACING

Whilst there is no legal requirement to do so, being a place of worship, we have been strongly advised by the diocese and the Borough Council to acquire details of those who attend Sunday and weekday Masses in our churches. To this end, you are encouraged to volunteer your contact details (name and phone number or email address) as you enter the church on the sheet provided at the entrance. **Alternatively**, if you have downloaded the NHS COVID-19 app you can scan the QR Code which you will find on the blue poster as you enter St Joseph's or the noticeboard in the porch and on the noticeboard in Our Lady's.

WELCOME

We welcome to our Pastoral Area Fr Nicholas Nwanzi, who will be looking after the parish of Christ the King, Bedford.

FATHER WARMOLL BOOKLET

We have had a run on this small booklet on the life of Fr John Priestley Warmoll, the founder of this parish of the Holy Child & St Joseph. We shall be ordering more and hope they will be with us soon.

EVC UGANDA SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER

This charity is looking for a volunteer to help support its social media accounts, post updates and write up blogs. If this is something you may be interested in, please contact Ted Fawcett, Chairman on 01234 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. A box marked Knock & Drop is at the back of the church to place donations of non-perishable food. Please also let us know if you need any help or know of anyone who does. Call us 07399 507218.

ONLINE WEBINARS

The diocesan Pastoral Ministry Office is hosting a series of online webinars on Monday evenings through the autumn. Topics include reaching out to the needy, building community, prayer and spirituality, and catechesis. For more information and to register go to:

<https://postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk>

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Ortensia Birkett, David Huxley and Margaret Cullinane. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

‘Spiritual maturity is not knowing what to do with your whole life, but just knowing what to do next.’

Henri Nouwen

GOSPEL REFLECTION MT 22:15-21

In today’s gospel reading the Pharisees set out deliberately to set a trap for Jesus by asking him if it is right to pay taxes to Caesar. If Jesus says that paying taxes to a pagan conqueror is permissible, they can denounce him as spiritually unworthy, as someone who does not respect the higher authority of God. He would lose credence with the people. If Jesus, on the other hand, says that paying taxes is not permissible, then the Pharisees would hope that the Roman authorities would intervene and arrest Jesus for inciting revolt. In the ancient world coins were regarded as the private property of a ruler. Jesus argues that if you use a coin of that ruler you put yourself under an obligation to him. If the coin bears the image of Caesar, it belongs to him. In the same way, the human person is in the image of God and our first obligation is to God. We must, therefore, be as observant in paying our debts to God as we are in paying our dues to the society in which we live. Because we have a dual citizenship we must render to God and render to Caesar. We live in this tension and trying to get it right is not always easy, especially when some laws conflict with our conscience. The fact that they are legal does not make them morally right. For example: abortion law; the sale of arms to repressive regimes; same sex marriage law; restrictions on religious liberty. We do not look to the State as our moral guide. It is God’s law not the State’s that has the last word. We need to listen to the Church in these morally confused and confusing times. We need to be thus guided and informed and listen to our conscience, that inner core and sanctuary of the human person wherein the voice of God echoes. This calls for courage, especially when so many do not share or understand our Christian values. But informing conscience and then deciding on the action to be taken is part of being faithful to the gospel. We can then say with St Thomas More, ‘I am the King’s good servant but God’s first.’

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

Offertory St Joseph’s £1162.48
CAFOD St Joseph’s £500.10

Our Lady’s £175.50
Our Lady’s (to be counted)

Thank you.