

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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CHRIST THE KING

22nd November 2020



FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

This feast today marks the end of the liturgical year before the beginning of Advent next Sunday. Hopefully, we will be able to celebrate public Mass again by 3rd December.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

St Joseph's church will be open for private prayer from 10.00am to 5.00pm each day. Our Lady's, Kempston, will be open from 11.00am to 1.00pm daily and for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 11.00am-12.30pm and on Fridays from 2.30pm-3.30pm. Adoration on Thursdays in St Joseph's will continue as normal. Confessions Saturdays 11.30am-12.30pm.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The blessing of graves has been postponed to Sunday 6th and 13th December at Norse Road and Kempston respectively.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday Ronald Madtha, RIP

Monday *St Columban*

Holy Souls

Tuesday *St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions*

Linda Richardson, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

Holy Souls

Thursday *Feria*

Brian Wright

Friday *Feria*

Holy Souls

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

Franc Rozman, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.00am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, Ngere

FLOWERS: Mrs Kavanagh

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Advent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

CONTACT TRACING

We have been advised by the diocese and the Borough Council to acquire details of those who attend 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.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Tickets for our Christmas Draw this year are now on sale and can be obtained from the presbytery at £2.50 a book. Prizes for the draw gratefully received and can be delivered to the presbytery or church.

GIVING TUESDAY

This facility is still available each Tuesday between 10.00am and 4.00pm when you will be able, if you wish, to call this number, 01604 712065, and donate to the parish. All that is required is to have a debit card or credit card to hand when you call. You can make a one-off donation to cover missed Sunday offerings or you can call each week. Thank you for your ongoing financial support.

HOLY LAND ONLINE COURSE

Pilgrimage People invite us to view an online course over the four weeks of Advent on the various pilgrimage sites in the Holy Land. The cost of the course is £60 running each Wednesday in December before Christmas from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. The talks will be recorded, allowing us to either attend the course live or watch in our own time. To register interest and for further details please email info@pilgrimagepeople.org or call 0800 6123423.

FATHER WARMOLL BOOKLET

An informative little booklet on the founder of The Holy Child & St Joseph Parish, Fr John Priestley Warmoll, 1830-1855. Cost is £3 per booklet, which can be placed in the wall-box marked Books.

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.

‘Man is great only when he is on his knees in prayer before God.’

Cardinal Robert Sarah

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mt 25:31-46

This graphic description of the day of judgement in today’s gospel conveys to us in no uncertain terms the consequences of our behaviour and actions in this world from the perspective of eternity. On that day Christ will judge our lives as lived here and it won’t take him long to weigh us up. In a glance he will see whether we show a glimmer of his life in us. He makes it clear that the basis for reward will not be great external works or worldly success, but the presence of charity and grace in our hearts. Love is the fulfilment of the law, so we are judged on love. And our Lord shows us it must be positive charity; love in action and service. Did we give the thirsty man a drink? Did we visit the sick? Did we cheer up the depressed? Did we welcome the stranger? Did we feed the hungry and so on. It’s a staggering realisation that those who are condemned were guilty not of deliberate acts of malice but rather for not doing good; they failed to respond to those in need. Heaven is for those who have learned to love and serve. Obviously, those who have committed deliberate acts of evil and die unrepentant will also be condemned, but it is a sobering and timely thought to realise that Christ will look to see how we have exercised love in a positive way. Love is positive; it rejoices over good, it serves cheerfully. There are so many who are lonely, confused, hurt, so many hungry and thirsty. The opportunities of loving service are numerous. What we do for others we do for and to Christ. Conversely, what we neglect to do for others we neglect to do for Christ, It is as straightforward as that! What it all amounts to is this: either we have walked with Jesus through the long day and now we know each other well, or we have betrayed him and our lives were not his and now he cannot recognise us. We call it Judgement Day but it is only judgement to those who are not recognisable. For to those whom the Lord will welcome it is Salvation Day and final glory. So for the faithful it is not a day to fear but rather a day to long for. It is the day for which we were made.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph’s £679.00

Our Lady’s £

Thank you.