

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29th November 2020



MASS RESUMES

The usual schedule of weekday and Sunday Masses resumes from this Thursday. St Joseph's church will remain open from 9.30am to 5.00pm weekdays and Our Lady's 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.

PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral Letter from our Bishop for the First Sunday of Advent can be viewed on the parish website. Copies available with this newsletter in the church.

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. They will also be on sale at the church from next Sunday. Prizes for the draw gratefully received and can be delivered to the presbytery or church.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	People of the Parish
Monday	<i>St Andrew</i> Mngolo & Katambo Families, RIP
Tuesday	<i>St Edmund Campion</i> Puch Libertucci
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i> Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Thursday	<i>St Francis Xavier</i> 10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i> 10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP
Saturday	<i>Feria</i> 10.45am Georgina Mee

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Kahari, Ndro

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Advent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

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 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.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards and other religious items will be on sale after all Masses next Sunday in St Joseph's and in Our Lady's next Saturday at the vigil Mass.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

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

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-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.

APPEAL

The SVP is appealing for financial contributions to enable the purchasing of under garments for users of the Prebend Day Centre and other homeless people in Bedford. Please do not donate clothing. Donations can be made online to NatWest, Account no: 46087796. Sort code: 60 60 04. Account name: E140101 SVP St Joseph and the Holy Child, Bedford. Cash or cheque donation can be handed into the presbytery. Thank you.

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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of John King and Josephine Royal. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

RED MISSION BOXES

Any parishioner holding a Red Mission Box and would like their donations included in this year's total for Missio, please bring them to St Joseph's or Our Lady's by Sunday 20th December. If you have Gift Aided your donations, please place your name on the bottom of the box. Please, also take another box with you. If you have difficulty getting them to the church, please contact Rosemary on 327631.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mark 13:33-37

'Be Prepared' used to be the Scout motto. And this is what Jesus is exhorting us to do in the gospel today as we enter the season of Advent. We are preparing for the great feast of Christmas, when Christ first came into the world as a child of weakness and vulnerability. But the gospel reading focuses on his second coming in power and great glory. We need to be prepared for his return when he will roll up the scroll of human history and definitively establish his kingdom of glory and triumph, for the world of the past, this world, is gone! We now enter the new world of the kingdom of light, justice, happiness and peace that will know no end. This is what we are to prepare for and it could happen anytime, hence our Lord's warning to stay awake and alert. This passage is also an oblique reference to the time of death. How do we prepare for that? By living! Living in God's love, allowing that love to pervade everything we do and say. That means a strong faith and an unfailing hope. These are kept alive through our prayer and sacramental practise which, in turn, keeps alive that sense of expectancy and joyful longing for the Lord's return in glory. We face many trials in life that can test our faith and rob us of that joy, but guard against such by looking beyond the horizon of this world to a world and a future that whispers within us, come to the Father. The word Advent means coming or arrival. We look forward to the coming of the Lord at Christmas but with even greater longing, the longing of a lover, to be united forever with the beloved, Jesus our Lord.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £327.00

Our Lady's £

Thank you.