

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**
6th December 2020



WELCOME BACK

After another imposed Eucharistic fast it is good to be back at Sunday Mass where we come together as a parish family to celebrate Christ's presence among us in his word and sacrament. Pray that there will not be a further lockdown depriving us of our religious practise. As before, we are obliged to wear face coverings and to sanitise our hands. Contact tracing is also in place.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Tickets for our Christmas Draw this year are still on sale after each Mass at £2.50 a book. Prizes for the Draw gratefully received and can be delivered to the presbytery or church.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards and other religious items are now on sale after all Masses today in St Joseph's and in Our Lady's.

FIRST CONFESSIONS

This Friday at 6pm in St Joseph's church.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Paulose & Rosakutty, RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.00am Larry Conroy, RIP
6.30pm Evelyn Foy, RIP

Monday *St Ambrose*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Tuesday *Immaculate Conception of Our Lady*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Wednesday *St Juan Diego*

10.45am In Thanksgiving (Rozman)

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Mary, Ciro & Luigi Guerriero, RIP

Saturday *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

10.45am Mary Frost

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Margaret Laing, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Okonkwo, Ngere

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Advent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

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.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The blessing of graves at Norse Road cemetery today at 2.30pm beginning with a short service followed by the blessing of individual graves. Kempston cemetery next Sunday at 2.30pm.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

There will be a parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 18th to 25th May 2021. Anyone interested in going, please contact, as soon as possible, Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054.

RED MISSION BOXES

Any parishioner holding a Red Mission Box who 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.

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.

FLOWER COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection in St Joseph's next Sunday to purchase flowers for the season of Christmas.

DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Five candidates from our own parish and other Bedford parishes are becoming Associates of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit Congregation this Wednesday. Pray for them as they make their commitment. More information about the Associates can be viewed at:

www.fillesstesprit.org/site/english

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mark 1:1-8

In all countries throughout the world, whenever the head of state or government wishes to visit another government, a messenger or envoy is sent on ahead prior to the visit in order to prepare things and work out plans. No less a preparation was made for the coming of the Messiah, Christ our Lord, into our world. Indeed, preparations for this momentous occasion started many hundreds of years before the event through the prophets who foretold the future coming of the Messiah. And now the moment had arrived. He through whom the world was made was coming into the world. The long expected one was at the door. Final preparations had to be made. A messenger was sent before him to announce the impending visit of God's anointed one, the Christ. He was sent to announce the conditions of God's reign and government which was about to be established in this world. John's clarion call was, "Prepare a way for the Lord; make his paths straight", and his message was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." John called for people to put their house in order, to renew their faith in God and their love for him and to seek his forgiveness. It was a call for a change of heart that would prepare them to receive and welcome the Holy One of God. And that call to conversion echoes down the centuries to our own day. Just as John the Baptist insisted upon it then so now is it no less urgent. A continual change of heart is needed by all of us if we are to prepare properly to meet Christ and to make him welcome in a world which has in many ways hardened its heart to him. There is a chill in the air when it comes to matters of faith. Many remain unmoved by the gospel message and any thought of the divine. This can seep into our bones too, hence the need to fan into a flame the gift of faith and allow it to warm our hearts with love of Christ. Christmas is a time of warmth, joy and hope because God is near. May we welcome him and experience the warmth of his presence and the peace he brings. Allow him, then to gather you in his arms and hold you close to his heart and be healed.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £

Our Lady's £

Thank you.