

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13th December 2020



GAUDETE

CHRISTMAS MASSES

There will be no Children's Christmas Mass in either church this year because of pressure of numbers. There will, however, be a vigil Mass on Christmas Eve in St Joseph's at 8.00pm followed by Midnight Mass at midnight. There will also be a vigil Mass Christmas Eve in Our Lady's, Kempston at 6.00pm with a 9.30am Mass on Christmas Day. The Christmas Day Masses in St Joseph's will be 8.15am, 9.30am and 11.00am.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be a Penitential Service with individual Confessions on Monday 21st December at 7.00pm in St Joseph's. Confessions in Our Lady's available after the vigil Mass next Saturday.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Kathleen Malone, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Yvonka Market
	6.30pm	John Messiah, RIP
Monday	<i>St John of the Cross</i>	
	10.45am	Monica Mngola
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Mr & Mrs Prior
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Celia Goodstadt, RIP
Thursday	<i>O Wisdom</i>	
	10.45am	Kathleen Keenan, RIP
Friday	<i>O Adonai</i>	
	10.45am	Maureen McCormack, RIP
Saturday	<i>O Root of Jesse</i>	
	10.45am	Mr & Mrs Nutt, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Edmond Connolly
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My soul rejoices in my God.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Ngere, Petts

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

CONTACT TRACING

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 are now on sale after all Masses today in St Joseph's and in Our Lady's.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

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

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 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.

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 is retiring collection in St Joseph's today to purchase flowers for the Christmas season.

SOCIALISING IN CHURCH

We are discouraged from socialising in the church building after Mass with anyone outside our family group or bubble.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Sexton. May she rest forever in the peace of the Lord.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS

The Knights of St Columba have produced Christmas posters available at the back of the church to display in your windows.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION 1Thess 5:16-24

Today, the third Sunday in Advent, is known as 'Gaudete Sunday', which means rejoice! The equivalent in Lent is 'Laetare'. St Paul, today, tells us to be happy at all times; pray constantly. He links happiness and prayer. On the face of it, somewhat of a tall order. But is it? It does not mean that we have to go around with a permanent grin, not allowed to show grief or appropriate anger or solemn thoughtfulness. How do we stay happy at all times with all that we see happening in the world especially this pandemic, or with all that may be happening in our own lives? No one can wave a wand over us and tell us to be happy, but we can ourselves take responsibility that whether we are sad or glad, nothing in the mystery which is God can in the end harm us. Christian joy is independent of anything external to us because it is rooted in the continual presence of Christ. A true Christian cannot really lose his or her happiness because we cannot lose Christ. St Paul tells us to pray constantly. Prayer is so important in this longing for real happiness. Giving time to this is vital for that joy which is not of this world. A lifting of the mind and heart to God in prayer, however brief, keeps alive that sense of the divine, of the presence of God. And if we can find extended time to pray, all the better. This allows for God to speak to us as we stay silent in his presence. Then we will find ourselves rejoicing in the Lord always even in times of trouble or anxiety. If we trust God, trust in his love and in his longing to be with us, then whether sad or glad we will find a serenity that no one or no thing can take from us. This is pure gift, but we need to be there to receive it and it is prayer that makes us receptive to the gift. May we never let anything so fill us with pain or sorrow as to make us forget the joy of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1978.56

Our Lady's £684.30

Thank you.