

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

[www.stjosephsbedford.org](http://www.stjosephsbedford.org) Email: [stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk)

## THE HOLY FAMILY

27<sup>th</sup> December 2020



### THANKS

My thanks to all who sent cards and gifts and for your generous Christmas offering despite these stringent times. Thanks to our parish musicians, altar servers, flower arrangers, church cleaners and those who set up the Crib and trees. And thanks to all who have contributed to the life of the parish in so many ways this past difficult year. Let us pray for a brighter year ahead. The Lord is with us.

### PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop David will be read at all Masses today.

### RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

Today, at all Masses, married couples are invited to renew their marriage vows.

### CHRISTMAS DRAW

The list of prize winners is now on the noticeboard. Thanks to all who donated prizes and bought tickets which raised £642.52 for our parish project.

### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Ronald Madtha, RIP  
9.30am Giuseppe Zonta  
11.00am People of the Parish  
6.30pm Andrew Hinde

### Monday *The Holy Innocents*

10.45am Cecilia Castelvetri

### Tuesday *St Thomas Becket*

10.45am Cecilia Woodly

### Wednesday *Octave Day*

10.45am Tony Hoare & Family

### Thursday *Octave Day*

10.45am Pomfret Family

### Friday *Mary, Mother of God*

10.45am Rosalind Richardson, RIP

### Saturday *SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Lorenza Bates, RIP

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

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

**CLEANING:** Daniels, Okonkwo, Ngere

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Redmond & Mrs Vaz

**NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday after Christmas**

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 3

**Children's Liturgy:** None for the present

### **CRIB OFFERING**

Money placed in the Crib Offering box this year is in aid of poor families in the Holy Land affected by the corona virus.

### **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 and on the noticeboard in Our Lady's.

## YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

With the Apostolic Letter, “Patris corde” (With a Father’s Heart), Pope Francis recalls the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of St Joseph” from 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. During this period we will have the opportunity to commit ourselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain with the help of St Joseph, head of the Holy family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.” At the end of his Letter, the Holy Father adds a prayer which he encourages all to pray: **Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.**

## MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

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

## SVP – KNOCK & DROP APPEAL

The Bedford District of the SVP continues to provide food parcels and support for vulnerable people during the Covid pandemic. A box marked Knock & Drop is at the back of the church to place donations of non-perishable food. Thank you.

## REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Thomas and Kathleen Mellon, Eileen Sexton and Maksymillian Kiedrowski. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

## REFLECTION Luke 2:1-14

Unable to find accommodation at the local inn, Mary had given birth to a son and “she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger”. And there in the manger in the face of that child we see God. How astonishing, how wondrous, how utterly amazing! That soft, little bundle of humanity is God! This is how he has revealed himself, in humility and weakness, making himself vulnerable with all who are weak and vulnerable. He truly is one of us and one with us, especially at this time. God has fully entered into our human condition and, as such, he understands, he knows our frailty and our fears. In the Christmas crib we see the glory of God in the child Jesus. He shares with us his divine life so that we can truly become children of God and realise our dignity. The divine is revealed not outside our fragile human lives but within them as he dwells among us as a man. The greatest gift we have received is the gift of God himself as he takes on our human flesh and allows himself to be protected by those young parents. Pondering this mystery should warm our hearts and renew our hope in the knowledge that we have a God who is close to us, who is one of us. Draw close to him, therefore, in love and trust and prayer. Hold him and press him to your heart as Mary did at his birth. In the tenderness of that embrace be assured of his love and his protection over you in all circumstances; he never abandons us. “*Christmas, feast of the birth of Jesus, is for me the reply of God and of the Church to a need of the soul: to hear repeated to me every year, the commemoration of that fact so sweet, so sublime, so simple and so deep, that God loves me*”. (Chiara Lubich)

*May you know the love of God  
wrapped in his Son, the perfect gift  
for everyone. Happy Christmas and  
New Year.  
Canon Seamus*

### **LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph’s £1213.04**

**Our Lady’s £480.50**

**Thank you.**