

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

3rd January 2021



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

This Wednesday is the feast of the Epiphany when we recall how the Magi, representing the pagan world at the time, came to do homage to the new born king. They recognised in this birth the beginning of God's great plan for the redemption and salvation of the world, a work that continues to the present day in the mission of the Church. Bringing with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they acknowledge this child to be a divine king destined to suffer. We too offer him gifts. The gold of our love, the frankincense of our prayer and the myrrh of our sacrifices. Mass for the feast at 10.45am in St Joseph's and 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The list of prize winners is now on the noticeboard. You can collect prizes from the presbytery. 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 Vergilio M Banaag, RIP
9.30am Tom & Mary Conway, RIP
11.00am Charlie Sterling, RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Fr Ambrose Walsh, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Winnifred Brannan, RIP

Wednesday *The Epiphany of the Lord*

10.45am Joy Slater

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Evelyn Foy, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Sandy Grove, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am O'Neill Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm John Coffey, RIP

Wednesday 7.30pm Alick & Rita Hellmund, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Word was made flesh and lived among us.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, Ngere

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond & Mrs Vaz

NEXT SUNDAY: The Baptism of the Lord

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

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.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next Sunday. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop home abortion which gives women abortion pills to take home without medical supervision. This is one of the most dangerous threats to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can to help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and help protect mothers from increased risk of coercion and serious health risks. There will be a retiring collection next Sunday after all Masses and you can also donate online at www.spuc.org.uk/donate

NORTHAMPTON CATHEDRAL CENTRE

The new Northampton Cathedral Centre is now complete and open. If you would like a virtual tour please go to www.northamptondiocese.org/centre

ONLINE LUX WEEKEND

This is an online weekend for 11 – 18 year olds organised by the youth ministry of the Northampton diocese from Saturday 30th to Sunday 31st January 2021. Please go to www.nymo.org/lux-valour

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.

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.

EVC UGANDA

Many of you are generously sponsoring young children in Uganda in their education. A message from the Chairman of the Charity is available at the back of the church. Please take a copy. You will also find it on the parish website.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 1:1-18

When we read the Christmas story and look at this gospel, we are assured that our God is not a distant God. He actually came to live among us. He wants to be with us so much that he came to be one of us. Our God isn't distant: he gets involved. He so much wants us to share in his divine life that he took on our human life. In the mystery of the incarnation, of God becoming human, God has committed himself to us forever. He has moved in with us, to be with us and to share our lot. He has lived among us. And, to the eyes of faith, he continues to live among us, in the scriptures, in the sacraments, in the Church, in our communities, in those we love. The incarnation is a mystery which has an effect on the way we live. The incarnation is quite simply God putting flesh and blood on his love for humanity. God's love is not just talk, not just an idea. In the person of Jesus, the love of God is made available for people to see, hear, touch. This privilege of knowing God's love for us also brings a responsibility. God asks us to make his love a reality so that others, too, can experience it. We are Christ's body on earth today. We are called to make the incarnation a reality, to make his love available so that people can experience it through us, here and now. God asks us to commit ourselves to a loving service of his people, just as Jesus did. He asks us to put flesh on his love, to be the Body of Christ for others. *"No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known."*

*Wishing you God's blessing,
protection and peace in the year
ahead.
Canon Seamus*

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £600.37

Our Lady's £95.00

Thank you.