

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10th January 2021



LOCKDOWN THREE

Thankfully our churches have been allowed to remain open for collective worship (Mass) and private prayer. We must remain vigilant regarding the rules already in place for places of worship especially to avoid mingling with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending church. Keep praying that this pandemic will soon lift whilst doing all we can to mitigate the disease.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The list of prize winners is on the noticeboard. Please check the list and if you are a prize winner 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	Tommy Fee
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Aaron Peace, RIP
	6.30pm	Loughran Family, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Chanpda Family
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Linda Coughlin, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Fr Fintan Crotty
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Michael & Teresa Mortimer
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Catherine Malone, RIP
Saturday	<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>	
	10.45am	Dermot & Marie McCloskey

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Kahari, Ngoro

FLOWERS: None for the present

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

FATHER FINTAN CROTTY, RIP

Please pray for the soul of Fr Fintan Crotty who died a few days ago. Many will fondly remember him as parish priest at Holy Cross Church, Bedford, for some years. May he be rewarded for his long years of priestly service.

LINDA COUGHLIN RIP

Please pray for Fr Wayne's mother, Linda Coughlin, who died the day after Christmas. Her funeral is this Tuesday in Cardiff. Please keep Fr Wayne in prayer at this sad time. For the moment there are no Masses or other liturgical services at SS Philip & James and Holy Cross.

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) is having its annual appeal today. There is a retiring collection today after all Masses and you can also donate online at www.spuc.org.uk/donate

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. For more information, 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.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

We hope to go ahead with our annual Surplus Gift Sale at the end of February. Donations appreciated.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Fintan Crotty, Linda Coughlin and Thomas & Kathleen Mellon. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mark 1:7-11

Most of us have been to a baptism and have enjoyed the celebration with family and friends. Another child has been added to the great family of God! Something sacred has happened, something holy. This feast of the Baptism of the Lord affords us an opportunity to reflect a little on this sacrament which all of us have received. By the simple act of the priest pouring water and pronouncing the words, "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," we are made a Christian, a child of God. We are touched by God and made his very own. This all happens in a hidden and mysterious way but no less real for that. God, in baptism, puts his finger on us and says, "You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter." We were too young to appreciate that privilege and grace then; it was left to our parents and godparents to bring us to understanding. And what a wonderful privilege it is – to know that the almighty and infinite God is our Father and that one day we will have the joy of seeing him face to face. Even though that day still awaits us, the journey to him has already begun with our baptism and each day that we live in this world brings us closer to another world which lies hidden from us now. Our safe arrival at that other world depends upon how we live in this one, how we have lived out the grace of baptism which is both a gift and a call. A gift in that it comes freely from God without our deserving it and a call in that we are meant to follow Christ with whom we are united. It is a call to holiness. This following of Christ is not always easy, especially in testing times. The thought of God and his heaven can easily be shut out but this is what we were made for and baptised into, which is why, in the eye of the storm, we must make a supreme act of faith, indeed several such acts, if we are to survive and regain our peace and stability. Remember, we are God's beloved children and he listens to the cries of his people. His love for us is immense and has an overwhelming longing to draw us to himself and bring us to that fulfilment for which he made us.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £765.50

Our Lady's £101.30

Thank you.