

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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**THIRD SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
24th January 2021

The
Word
of God

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Today has been designated by Pope Francis as Sunday of the Word of God. He wants us to appreciate the importance of the Word of God because it has power to change our lives and guide us to the eternal life.

WEEKLY OFFERING

For those who attend Sunday Mass, a gentle reminder to place your offering in the collection box by the entrance in St Joseph's church and the basket in Our Lady's church. Mass attendance has dropped and so has the weekly income. Please consider continuing your financial support, even though you may not be attending at the moment. Cheques payable to St Joseph's Parish, Bedford or Our Lady of Ransom, Kempston, can be sent in.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

It is proposed that the parish Holy Land pilgrimage scheduled for April be postponed to the autumn. We are looking at dates late September early October. If we go in April there may still be restrictions to some of the Holy Land sites. I will keep you informed once I know more.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Ronald Madtha, RIP
	9.30am	Gus Orr, RIP
	11.00am	Michael Micallef, RIP
	6.30pm	Toni Kinsella, RIP
Monday	<i>Conversion of St Paul</i>	
	10.45am	Gus Orr, RIP
Tuesday	<i>SS Timothy & Titus</i>	
	10.45am	Mary Cox
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Terezija Dernulc, RIP
Thursday	<i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	
	10.45am	Antoinette & Mansour El-Rif, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Thomas & Patricia Price, RIP
Saturday	<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>	
	10.45am	John Traynor

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Pauline & Patrick Devaney, RIP
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, make me know your ways.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, Ngere.

FLOWERS: None for the present

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

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 and on the noticeboard in Our Lady's.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

We hope to go ahead with our annual Surplus Gift Sale at the end of February. Donations appreciated and can be left at the presbytery or the church.

VIGILANCE

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, both inside the building and outside. Thank you and keep praying for an end to the pandemic.

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 from the presbytery.

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. To book, please go to www.nymo.org/lux-valour

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

This parish pilgrimage has now been postponed to 14th – 21st September 2021. Anyone interested in going, please contact Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054.

THANK YOU

The Bedford District of the SVP would like to thank all who donated money to Knock & Drop - £305 and the Homeless Christmas Appeal - £710. Please continue to support Knock & Drop with donations of non-perishable food. Thank you.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Hansen, Giuseppe Libertucci and Barry Souter. May they rest the peace of Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and courage to reach out to all. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

What's in a word? In many eastern cultures, a word is a reality in its own right, with a dynamism of its own, effecting what it expresses. It has its own power for good or evil. If this is true of human words, it is even more true of the Word of God. Man's words can be deceptive and produce a reality different from that which they promise. God's Word does not deceive or mislead. God's word is possessed of an energy which infallibly performs his will. It has a creative and life-giving force without which the very universe would not exist, for it came to be as a result of that Word and continues to speak to those who have ears to hear of the power and majesty and beauty of its creator. (cf. Gen.1:1-2; 4). God's Word, then is a reality identified at once with God, for it is nothing other than an outward manifestation of him and yet somehow distinct from him – for it reaches out to reveal his love and so to invite all things to share his life. For God, to make himself known more clearly to man, chose a people for himself, Israel, and sent his word to dwell with them in the form of his saving promises given to the Patriarchs; in the form of the Mosaic Law; in the form of the Prophetic message which constantly revealed to them God's will and in the form of the Wisdom with which he endowed his people. The whole of their history has been fashioned by the Word of God who revealed himself as much by what he had done as by what he said. It was this same Word of God which the New Testament assures us finally became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ (Jn 1:14). God's self-revelation took human form in order to become more fully understandable to us. In Christ we know God as completely as he can be known in this life. Since his coming, to read the Word of God in scripture is necessarily to find him expressed on every page. Since his coming, to preach the Word of God is necessarily to preach him, not only in words but in that self-sacrificing service and love which most effectively make him known.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £740.38

Our Lady's £153.57

Thank you.