

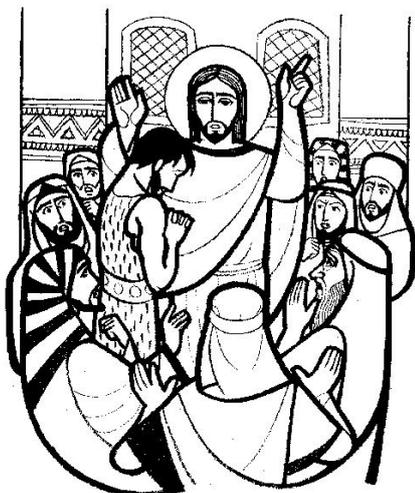
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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

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**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
31st January 2021



CANDLEMAS

Tuesday is the feast of The Presentation of the Lord also known as Candlemas, when we traditionally bless and light candles at the beginning of the Mass, symbolising Christ, the light of the world. We invoke him to shed his light on the world at this time and in our own hearts dispersing the darkness that can so easily engulf our lives of faith and hope.

BLESSING OF THROATS

Another tradition is the blessing of throats with the blessed candles from Candlemas, which will take place after Mass this Wednesday, the feast of St Blaise.

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	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Tonks, RIP
	11.00am	Michael Micallef, RIP
	6.30pm	Franc Rozman, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Dennis Gilbert, RIP
Tuesday	<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	
	10.45am	Ena Dring, RIP
Wednesday	<i>St Blaise</i>	
	10.45am	Josephine Soune-Seyne, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Mary Kelly, RIP
Friday	<i>St Agatha</i>	
	10.45am	Sandra Pink
Saturday	<i>SS Paul Miki & Companions</i>	
	10.45am	Evelyn foy, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Kahari, Ndoro

FLOWERS: None for the present

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

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.

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.

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.

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 which can be left at the back of the church in the designated box. Thank you.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mark 1:21-28

Moses, in today's first reading, announces to the people that God is going to raise up a prophet from among them and they must listen to his words. This prophet will speak only what the Lord commands and, in this way, will be an instrument of life and health. John the Baptist announces his coming; Jesus is anointed by the Spirit to speak to the people. When they hear him, they are hearing God and hearing the truth. It was immediately obvious to the people in the synagogue at Capernaum that Jesus was different from the Scribes. He spoke with authority. There was an integrity about his words that led them to believe he was genuine. He demonstrated his authority over the unclean spirit when he cast it out of the man in the gospel today. We see that power and authority exercised throughout Jesus ministry. That same power is channelled today through the sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist, Confession and the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the Dying. But it pre-supposes faith. "*Do you believe I can do this?*" is the question he asks of us as he did in his earthly ministry. Do we believe Jesus can work miracles for us? He has power to do so. Do we have faith to believe so? The Lord has power to heal, to forgive, to save, to raise up. Pray, therefore, with faith that he may work little miracles for us. And even big miracles; even destroying this pandemic that continues to blight us! Let praise be at the heart of our prayer, for praise opens up the floodgates of God's mercy and power. He will not refuse such heartfelt prayer for it touches his heart. '*Heart speaks to heart.*' Many of us are under-going great difficulties at the moment. Take them to the Lord, share them with him, don't carry them on your own for you are not alone! "*Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest.*" The Lord always keeps his promise. Displace your life on to him. Re-locate your centre in him. Then things will begin to happen! With authority he will speak. With power he will act.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1260.80

Our Lady's £131.97

Thank you.