

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 Email: stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
7th February 2021



ASSISTANCE ON THE WAY

I have been promised an assistant priest who will be joining us on 8th March, all being well. His name is Fr Pius Duke from Nigeria and a member of the Missionaries of St Paul. He is already working in this country but is at home in Nigeria at the moment. We hope to have him for a year to 18 months.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

This Thursday is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and is designated as the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Please pray in a special way for all who are sick, especially those we know and in particular, those suffering from the corona virus. We keep in prayer also those who care for the sick.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The list of prize winners is on the noticeboard. Lots of unclaimed prizes! Please check the list and if you are a prize winner you can collect from the presbytery.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Elia Paily, RIP
11.00am Rosalind Richardson, RIP
6.30pm Innocent & Blessing

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Sara Buckingham

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Margie McHale

Wednesday *St Scholastica*

10.45am Special Int. (Macholowe)

Thursday *Our Lady of Lourdes*

10.45am Sylvia Blackburn

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Linda Richardson, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Pam Scott-Crossley, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Holy Souls

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm.

CLEANING: Daniels, Okonkwo.

FLOWERS: None for the present

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

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.

BEDFORD FOODBANK

The Bedford Foodbank requires the following items: Deodorant, long-life sponge puddings, toilet rolls, 100g jars of coffee, 500g bags of sugar, small tins of meat (up to 300g), liquid hand soap and bars of soap. These can be placed in the green bin in St Joseph's church and the cardboard box in Our Lady's. Thank you.

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.

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.

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.

SVP APPEAL

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Cox and John Spencer. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

*“Sadness is when we look into ourselves.
Happiness is when we look towards God.”*

Blessed Carlo Acutis

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mark 1:29-39

Poor old Job, in the first reading today, paints a rather sorry picture of life: pressed service, hired drudgery, nothing to look forward to! He was going through a bad time and his faith was being tested. But he held on, trusting in his God, and his story ends happily as God rewards his trust. Without faith life would seem meaningless and intolerable, which is why we need to hold on to it, keeping it alive and vital. Faith centres on someone; Jesus Christ, who sets us free from fear and hopelessness and that sense of drift. How is this precious gift kept alive and fresh? Prayer! Notice how Our Lord, in today's gospel, goes off to a lonely place to pray. If he found it necessary to withdraw from his busy work of preaching and healing to pray to his heavenly Father how much more we should find it necessary, we who are mere mortals! Prayer was food and drink for him; he gained strength and inspiration from it. If we neglect prayer our faith will naturally weaken and that sense of the divine in our lives will evaporate. A spiritual anaesthesia will envelop us and we become numb to the divine presence. So how does one pray? To start with, we need to set some determined time aside each day. Then we need to understand that prayer is all about loving; telling God over and over again that we really do love him and trust him. And so our prayer should include praise, adoration and thanksgiving. Turning prayer into a list of requests and favours is not true prayer; it's just self-indulgence and becomes pretty tedious, especially when we don't get what we want. When we converse with another person we know well and love, we talk about all sorts of things. That's how it should be in prayer with God, making sure, at the same time, we don't do all the talking! We need to listen, too, in the secret of our heart. What matters is that we make a decision to give that little bit of time to him each day, to withdraw quietly in prayer as he did when he was with us on this earth. He is our model and inspiration. Follow him and his life and the joy of living is ours. Let prayer be the antidote that we naturally reach for.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1220.43

Our Lady's £390.00

Thank you.