

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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**SIXTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
14th February 2021



ASH WEDNESDAY

We begin the holy season of Lent this Wednesday with the blessing and distribution of ashes at the Masses. Mass times in St Joseph's are at 7.30am & 10.45am. In Our Lady's, Kempston, Mass at 7.30pm. Lent affords us the opportunity once again to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to seek reconciliation in the sacrament of Confession. This season also reminds of the constant need to renew and nourish our spiritual lives through prayer, self-denial and works of charity in a more intense way. Spiritual spring-cleaning! Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (reduced food) and abstinence (no meat).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be every Sunday during Lent beginning next Sunday at 4.00pm in St Joseph's and Our Lady's. In this prayerful devotion we meditate on the passion and death of Christ.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Melvin Bino
	9.30am	Elia Paily, RIP
	11.00am	Margaret Hurd
	6.30pm	Michael Kinsella, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Patricia McDaid, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Fr John Priestley Warmoll, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
	7.30am	Mary Cusack
	10.45am	Canon Giles Goward, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	John & Mary Mahoney, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Gregoria Castillo, RIP
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	James Foy, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Tom Eastwood, RIP
Wednesday	7.30pm	Stephen Norton, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, Ngere

FLOWERS: None for the present

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

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.

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.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE-NEW DATES

New dates have been arranged for the Holy Land pilgrimage: 27th September to 4th October 2021. Please inform Pilgrimage People if you still wish to go on this parish pilgrimage by email:

info@pilgrimagepeople.org. If others wish to join the pilgrimage, please let me know as soon as possible.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

We have set a date for Sunday 21st March for the Surplus Gift Sale. 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.

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.

BENCH CLEANING

Thanks to all who help with cleaning the benches after Mass. The prolonged use of abrasive sprays in St Joseph's is, however, harming the wood and the sprays leave an unpleasant sticky residue. We have now sourced a disposable cleaning wipe that is far more effective against the virus and which does not harm the wood nor indeed your hands. One of these wipes will clean 2 – 3 benches. So please use them and they can be disposed in the black bin-liner at the back of the church. Thanks.

CAFOD-WALK FOR WATER

During Lent Rosemary Mitchell and Mary Frost will be doing 10,000 steps a day for Walk for Water CAFOD Appeal. This is in aid of water projects to transform people's lives in the developing world. If you would like to sponsor the walk please sign the form at the back of the church with the amount you wish to donate.

40 PENCE FOR 40 DAYS

Another opportunity to give this Lent with the Bedford Foodbank 40 for 40 challenge. By giving up 40 pence a day for the 40 days of Lent you can raise enough to help support a local family in crisis this Easter. All you have to do is find an old jam jar or similar container and start collecting. The money saved can then be handed into the church.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mark 1:40-45

The isolation and fear caused by the present pandemic reflects in a way the situation with the disease of leprosy in the time of Jesus. There was no known cure then and the poor sufferer led a life of sheer misery and loneliness. Jesus is filled with pity at the leper who approaches him and immediately reaches out and touches him. An unthinkable act! But in that instant he is healed and no longer isolated. How precious was that healing touch! When we celebrate the sacraments we, too, are touched by Christ. We are healed, forgiven, strengthened and comforted. We are no longer alone or isolated but are restored to God's friendship and love. We are in communion with him and one another, a holy communion. The sacraments are the visible tangible presence of Christ who reaches out to us in our loneliness and need. Touched by him we feel that someone cares for us, healing whatever ails us. The Lord will never turn away anyone who comes to him in faith and trust, like that leper, but will hold us to his heart and heal our aching wounds.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Cox, Audrey Robinson and Michael Kerrigan.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1061.38

Our Lady's £492.50

Thank you.