

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Pius Duke MSP

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

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**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**
14th March 2021



WELCOME

We welcome Fr Pius Duke to our parish as he takes up his ministry among us as our new assistant priest.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

The Sale will be next Sunday after all Masses in the Guild Room and next Saturday after the Vigil Mass in Our Lady's. Items for the sale, please.

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.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Charlie McGoey, RIP
	11.00am	Forbes
	6.30pm	Michael Bagness, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Patrick Summers, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Bridget & Michael Slattery, RIP
Wednesday	<i>St Patrick</i>	
	10.45am	Angela Wilson, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Tom Kelly, RIP
Friday	<i>St Joseph</i>	
	10.45am	Patrick Cusack, RIP
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	James Foy, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm

CLEANING: Kahari, Ngoro

FLOWERS: None for the present

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

EVC UGANDA

During Lent, EVC Uganda is seeking to raise funds to help provide a much needed library at St Matia Mulumba Primary School. If you would like to have part in this, donations can be made via the KindLink button on the EVC website: www.evcuganda.org or by sending a cheque made payable to EVC Uganda, 1 Church Road, Willington, Beds MK44 3QD.

BEDFORD FOODBANK

The following items are needed for the Bedford Foodbank: tinned carrots, coffee 100g jars, long-life sponge puddings, pot noodles, instant porridge pots, jam, microwave rice (250g), razors, shaving foam, liquid hand soap, bars of soap, deodorant.

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.

LENT TALKS

A series of Zoom Lent Talks every Wednesday during Lent 12.30pm – 1.00pm. The title of the talks is: Coping with Crisis – The Church's Response to Covid. Join us on Zoom: ID: 851 0501 4603. Passcode: 942352. See poster on church noticeboard for full details.

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Tony Birkett and Giuseppe Testa.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 3:14-21

The imagery of light is important in the Gospel of St John. The ministry of Jesus is a ministry of light, of the victory of light. Darkness stands for ignorance, lack of faith, for sinfulness, for sickness, for death. Though the world is often dark in John's Gospel, darkness has been redeemed, and is now simply the time before the rising of the sun, before the risen Christ appears. We walk in this light as believers but we also experience the darkness, too, whether it is the darkness of pain, of illness, of ignorance, of fear, of falsehood, of death. However, because we live in Christ, we do not allow the darkness around us or within us to overcome us. Christ is the light the darkness cannot overcome. The liturgy is steeped in the language of light. We celebrate communion with Christ and with each other. With the vision of God's kingdom before us we have a common aspiration. Together we work for healing, reconciliation, peace and love. And these are not just ideas or words but aspects of the light who is Christ and who lives in you and me. Light for us is a way of living according to the way of Christ. It is allowing Christ to work in us and through us, so that when we act or speak, it is Christ who acts or speaks. With Christ in our hearts, we are the light, and the darkness cannot prevail. Each little act of kindness, each little act of love, of service, of compassion, of mercy, holds the darkness back and allows the light to shine, the light that is Jesus. We are looking forward to the wonderful feast of Easter, the feast of hope and of promise. When the power of evil seemed to have triumphed on Good Friday, came the surprise and wonder of the resurrection! The light was extinguished for a brief time but then returned more vital, more luminous than ever, never again to be extinguished. Does this not give us hope, does this not make our hearts thrill with joy and expectation? It should, for that is what we are destined for; the light of the eternal day of which Easter is the guarantee. *"I am the light of the world. Anyone who believes in me will have the light of life."*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1240.00

Our Lady's £153.70

Thank you.