

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

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**
21st March 2021



SURPLUS GIFT SALE

Today in the Guild Room at St Joseph's after all Masses and the porch of Our Lady's church.

HOLY WEEK

Because of the expected increase in numbers wishing to attend the Holy Week services next week, especially Good Friday, it will be first come first served. Please, therefore, do not be offended if we have to refuse entry once we have reached our safe capacity. With this in mind, there will be an extra Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 10.30am in St Joseph's as well as 7.30pm Stations. Details of the Holy Week services will be available next Sunday.

CAFOD-WALK FOR WATER

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Nora Hart, RIP
	9.30am	Christina Del Graeco, RIP
	11.00am	Mary Orr, RIP
	6.30pm	EVC Uganda
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Joan Martin, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Valerie Ashpole, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Nemia Corpuz
Thursday	<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	
	10.45am	Paul Couvakis
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Kenneth & Aradhana (Thanksgiving)
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Jovi Macholowe

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Steve Steel, RIP
----------	--------	------------------

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

A pure heart create for me, O God.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am–5.00pm.

CLEANING: Daniels, Okonkwo.

FLOWERS: None for the present

NEXT SUNDAY: Palm Sunday

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop David will be read at all Masses today. Please pick up a statement from the Bishop's Conference on the National Day of Reflection, Tuesday 23rd March.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be a Penitential Service with individual confessions on Tuesday 30th March at 7.00pm in St Joseph'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.

SVP KNOCK & DROP-THANK YOU

The SVP thank all those who have contributed in many ways to the Appeal. In that time your support has enabled Knock & Drop to help 118 individuals in need in Bedford, regularly provide food parcels to 54 adults and children, deliver 1378 food parcels on 365 drops, carry out 166 paid for shopping trips and make 37 deliveries of medication and other items. Thank you once again for your support and please take a leaflet as you leave the church.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Parishioners volunteering within the parish may require a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. This requires an update every three years. Those volunteers who already have a DBS certificate which requires renewal will be contacted shortly, by letter, explaining how this can be undertaken. The two new safeguarding representatives for the parish are Margaret Begley and Geraldine Byrne. Contact phone numbers on the notice board.

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.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

This parish pilgrimage is from 14th to 21st September 2021. Contact Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 12:20-30

We notice in today's Gospel how Jesus was suddenly filled with anguish in the face of an imminent and cruel death. He knew what he would have to suffer and yet was prepared to accept his pain and death so that life might be won by dying. This is the paradox of his death, but if it be thought strange that he must die in order to bring forth life, it should be remembered, as he points out in the Gospel, that this paradox already exists in nature. The grain of wheat left to itself produces nothing; only when it appears to have died and has been buried does it bring forth fruit in greater abundance than itself. It is another observable paradox that the meaning of life so often eludes the person who thinks he or she is living it to the hilt. Selfishness, man's false love of himself that will not permit him to sacrifice himself for others, ends in destroying him; whilst, in our Lord's words, "*anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.*" It is only the person who is prepared to die to self, to renounce self and selfishness, who will experience true life and joy. This is what the paradox of our Lord's death teaches us - the principle of sacrifice. In this alone is fulfilment found. And Christ vindicated his teaching and example by his resurrection from the seeming defeat and illogicality of death. Dying to self does not come easily to us; it's something we have to learn and practise daily. When we do something without thought of self then we are most fully human because we act and behave like Christ. God is completely selfless. It is what constitutes the divine happiness, and from our own experience it is when we give of our time, energy, resources and oneself in the service of those in need that we feel the greatest happiness. Difficult, but the harvest of goodness and love we produce far exceeds the sacrifice involved. "*If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.*" Indeed he will, when we hear those wonderful words of welcome: "*Well done good and faithful servant...come and join in your Master's joy.*" (Mt 25:v21)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1304.05

Our Lady's £140.80

Thank you.