

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

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

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PALM SUNDAY

28th March 2021



HOLY WEEK

Today begins the most solemn week in the Church's liturgical year. Because of the expected increase in numbers wishing to attend the Holy Week services, 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 are on a separate yellow sheet at the back of the church.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no 10.45am Mass this Thursday, Friday and Saturday and no Eucharistic Adoration this Thursday. Also, there will be no Vigil Mass in Our Lady's on Holy Saturday. The Easter Sunday Mass will be at 9.30am in Our Lady's.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Mary McGee, RIP
	11.00am	Mark George, RIP
	6.30pm	Dick Gardner
Monday	<i>Holy Week</i>	
	10.45am	Irena & Family
Tuesday	<i>Holy Week</i>	
	10.45am	Mary Lombardo
Wednesday	<i>Holy Week</i>	
	10.45am	Rosalind Richardson, RIP
Thursday	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	
	8.00pm	Dinorah Burnett, RIP
Friday	<i>Good Friday</i>	
	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	<i>Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil</i>	
	8.30pm	People of the Parish

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Ronald Madtha, RIP
Thursday	8.00pm	Edmond Connolly, RIP
Good Friday	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None this Thursday

CLEANING: All who are available, please.

FLOWERS: All flower arrangers.

NEXT SUNDAY: Easter Sunday

Readers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross at 4.00pm in St Joseph's and Our Lady's today.

CHRISM MASS

Sadly, the Chrism Mass this year will not be open to the public because of the present restrictions. Live streaming of the Mass can be viewed by going to www.northamptondiocese.org/live

PENITENTIAL SERVICE & CONFESSIONS

Penitential Service with individual confessions this Tuesday at 7.00pm in St Joseph's. Also, this Saturday at the usual time in St Joseph's and from 5.00pm to 5.30pm in Our Lady's.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

There will be no renewal of your commitment at the Maundy Thursday Mass this year. We may consider doing it on the feast of Corpus Christi in June.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The collection on Good Friday at the Stations and the Solemn Liturgy is for the upkeep of the Holy Land Shrines.

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. We thank Mary O'Sullivan for the many years she has been our parish rep as she steps down from this role.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

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

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

The parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been postponed once more until the spring of next year. Dates to be arranged.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mark 14:1-15:47

Throughout the early stages of Our Lord's ministry we see him active and in charge. He has healed, preached, argued, cast out devils, and forgiven people their sins. He also gradually forms his disciples into a group ready to follow and proclaim him. Then it all falls apart! Judas may be the one who actually hands Jesus over but Peter denies him, the other disciples abandon him, other people bear false witness against him, the crowds turn on him and the powers that be hand him over to be crucified. At the end, in his own last words, it seems that even God his Father has abandoned him. *"For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle."* Suddenly, Jesus becomes passive, allowing these things to happen to him. But in this seeming passivity and helplessness God is active in bringing about the redemption of the world. And it was a costly price to pay! It reveals just how seriously he takes us and how much he loves us. Would we be convinced otherwise? I think not. Sin has power, it has power to kill a man who was God! To defeat it at its roots, Jesus submitted to it, absorbing its force and then neutralised it by his cross and resurrection. The devil wasn't expecting that! No one was! Defeat turned into victory, and what a victory! The power of sin and death no longer holds sway for those united to Christ. Yes, we still feel the effects of sin and the sadness of death but their power is weakened; they do not have the last word. *"Death where is your victory, death where is your sting?"* The victory has been won, the sting has been removed! The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality. And so we sing with the jubilant crowds as Jesus enters Jerusalem on this Palm Sunday: *"Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"* Let this be our anthem as we make our way towards the heavenly Jerusalem.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1189.51

Our Lady's £111.90

Thank you.