

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

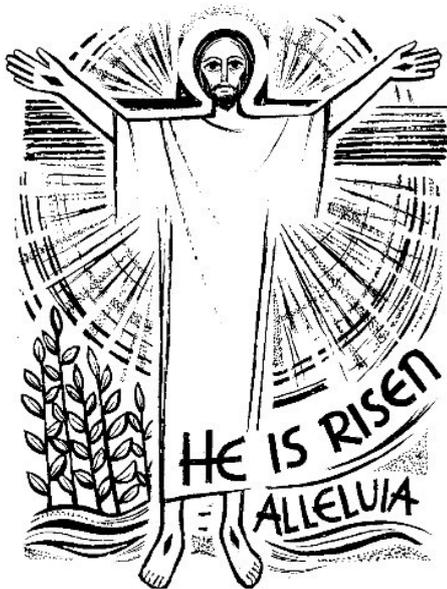
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Pius Duke MSP

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## EASTER SUNDAY

4<sup>th</sup> April 2021



### EASTER

Today is the greatest feast in the life of the Church and therefore in the life of every believing Christian. Why? Because we share in the victory of Christ who defeated the last enemy of man, death! Christ's resurrection gives meaning to our earthly existence. We are made for life and future glory! It is this Easter faith which helps to dispel sadness and hopelessness that can so easily afflict us. We are renewed in him who renews all things. And so we possess the courage to live the gift of life as a gift that stretches into eternity. We live, therefore, in joyful hope and sing alleluia in our hearts.

### THANKS

Thanks to all who helped with the Holy Week and Easter celebrations: musicians and singers, readers, altar servers, flower arrangers and church cleaners. Thank you also for the many Easter greetings sent to us.

### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Rosalind Richardson, RIP  
9.30am Zara Maria Rivas  
11.00am In Thanksgiving  
6.30pm Fr Andrew Coy

Monday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Mary Wright, RIP

Tuesday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Evelyn Foy, RIP

Wednesday *Easter Octave*

10.45am John Slattery, RIP

Thursday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Bridie & Nick Keisters, RIP

Friday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Alan Wright, RIP

Saturday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Pam & Dick Voogd, RIP

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Sunday 9.30am Marian Devaney

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

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday 11.30am-5.00pm

**CLEANING:** Cummings, Petts

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Redmond

**NEXT SUNDAY: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)**

**Readers:** Rota Week 1

**Children's Liturgy:** None for the present

### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Next Sunday is the feast of Divine Mercy when we recall and celebrate the great mercy of God revealed in Christ. There will be an afternoon of prayer and devotion in St Joseph's starting at 2.45pm with the blessing of the Divine Mercy image followed by the 3 o'clock prayer and Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the Consecration Prayer. Confessions will be available afterwards. All are invited to pray, invoking God's mercy, especially at this time of pandemic.

## **SURPLUS GIFT SALE**

The Surplus Gift Sale raised £262.50 in aid of our parish project which remains Mary's Meals and the Bedford Daycare Centre. Thanks to all who donated items and to all who bought from the sale.

## **REQUEST**

Please do not place items of clothing in the Bedford Foodbank bin at the back of the church. We do not collect clothing.

## **SVP KNOCK & DROP**

Please continue to donate non-perishable food items to the SVP Knock & Drop initiative. You can place items in the marked box at the back of the church in St Joseph's and in the church porch at Our Lady's. Thank you for your generosity in giving.

## **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 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lilly Battiloro. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION John 20:1-9**

*"Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed."* What did the apostle John see? An empty tomb with linen cloths lying around. Then comes the leap of faith, the leap beyond the mere physical evidence. He moved from doubt and ignorance to faith and understanding. Like John, we need to decide what the empty tomb means to us. Many have concluded that it is of no importance. We, however, know different. Our faith sees what the world cannot see. Yes, we see an empty tomb but why is it empty? *"The tomb the living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!"* The grave could not contain the power of the resurrection. The tomb could not hold life! As promised, Jesus broke the bonds of death, he lifted the mourning veil that enshrouds all nations, *"darkness has been put to flight by the living Lord of light!"* This is what the empty tomb means for us, but we have to make that essential leap of faith and Easter invites us to do so. In the face of all that would contradict it we must assert our faith in a life that survives death. Living in the light of this truth, this belief, makes all the difference. Our lives begin to be pervaded by a sense of real joy that is not of this world as it does not depend on external circumstances. A sense of hope, too, and of peace, again not of this world. In the resurrection we enter into a new way of being, of understanding and of living our lives in this passing world. Beyond the horizon of death, life awaits; real life, pure life, eternal life. There we shall breathe the resurrection air of heaven. There the everlasting rooms are in readiness, there the treasures of good things will be opened, there the kingdom prepared from the beginning of the ages will be ours. The empty tomb betokens all this and so we rejoice and are glad this day made by the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Wishing you the joy and blessing of  
the risen Lord this Easter.*

*Canon Seamus & Fr Pius*

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1072.00**

**Our Lady's £107.00**

**Thank you.**