

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

1st August 2021



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Clement Francis, RIP
9.30am Dilys Willis, RIP
11.00am Patrick Peace, RIP
6.30pm Anja Hruškar

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Tittina Miraglia, RIP

Wednesday *St John Vianney*

10.45am Mary Orr, RIP

Thursday *Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major*

10.45am Joan Martin, RIP

Friday *Transfiguration of the Lord*

10.45am Evelyn Foy, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Rosemary Mitchell

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Jim & Dina Keane

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

FUNDRAISING MEETING

There has been little fundraising this year for our parish project, Mary's Meals and the Bedford Daycare Centre. What we have managed to collect prior to the pandemic will now be passed on to these two charities. I will be able to give you the amount shortly. To discuss a new project and to arrange events, there will be a meeting of the fundraising committee on Friday 3rd September at 7.30pm in the Guild Room. Please let me know if you are able to attend.

PARISH FORUM

The Parish Forum will meet on Friday 17th September at 7.30pm in the Guild Room. Please make every effort to attend and please let me know if you can do so.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-6.00pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's parish are now available for collection at the back of the church. Please take your box-set for continued use. Anyone who wishes to start using envelopes, please let me know. Also, if you wish to Gift Aid your donations to the parish, again please let me know.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the continued need for peace in our world.

GIFT AIDING

Do you regularly contribute to the weekly collection at Mass? Do you pay income tax or capital gains tax? If you can answer yes to both questions, why not consider Gift Aiding your donations if you do not do so already. The parish can claim 25p from HMRC for every £1 you give and at no extra cost to you, which means you can increase the value of your gift by 25%. Please let me know if you would be interested.

CLIMATE TALKS

This year, the UK will host the 'Cop 26' climate talks in Glasgow in November. Many of the world's poorest countries are struggling to cope with the effects of climate change such as increased droughts, floods and cyclones. We need world leaders to put the poorest people at the heart of their talks and the UK has a critical role to play as host. Please sign our petition to the Prime Minister at www.cafod.org.uk/reclaim. There will be an opportunity to sign a petition card to the PM in a couple of weeks.

LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

The Bishops' Conference recommends that we keep in place, for the moment, present practices in our churches as we gather for Mass. That is to say: sanitising of hands, continued use of face coverings, safe distancing and cleaning down of benches after use. We can now sing at Mass, so the hymn books will be available for our use but please sanitise your hands before using them. Communion on the tongue is now allowed. The exchange of peace is not yet recommended nor the use of holy water as you enter the church. There is no need of a one-way system for entering and exiting the church, so please use the same access doors. These practices will be reviewed as the situation changes.

SVP KNOCK & DROP

Non-perishable food items are still needed for the SVP Knock & Drop initiative. You can place these items in the marked box at the back of the church.

GOSPEL REFLECTION - John 6:24-35

“Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life.” There is a deeper hunger in the spirit of man that cannot be assuaged by physical food and it is this hunger the Lord is referring to in today's gospel. The people had just witnessed the miracle of the feeding of the multitude and wanted to see more. Jesus wanted to lead them to understand and recognise that there is more to life than bread and circuses! He tries to direct their gaze within to see the true state of their lives. They were past hunger; they were starving without recognising it! He offers them the true bread that can satisfy this hunger; belief in him who is the bread of life. This belief will transform them, will change their hearts and minds. St Paul, in the second reading, puts it like this: *‘You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.’* This is a revolution of the heart which can only be achieved by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Our constant prayer is that we will be renewed by the Holy Spirit and the rest will follow from that. The people with Moses in the desert complained and wanted to return to the land of slavery and eat as much as they wanted. Moses wanted to lead them to the land of freedom and plenty. They just had to trust that God would see them through, and he did. The temptation remains with us to return to old habits of sin and behaving which seems enticing but does not lead to freedom but to slavery of the human spirit. We are on a pilgrimage back to the Father's house and the freedom of the children of God. He does not want us to wander off in other directions and become lost. The way can be hard and difficult at times, trying to live the life of the Spirit, but there is one who accompanies us all along the way, fortifying us guiding us, sustaining us: *“He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.”*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1061.99

Our Lady's £363.00

Thank you.