

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 18th July 2021



LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

Given the high infection rate at the moment in the general population, the Bishop's Conference recommends that we keep in place 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 from next Sunday (though it might sound a bit muffled!), so the hymn books will be returning for our use but please sanitise your hands before using them, (and have a good gargle in the meantime!). Communion on the tongue is now allowed. The exchange of peace is not yet recommended. There is no need of a one-way system for entering and exiting the church, so we 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. Thank you for your generous giving.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Leah Rivas
9.30am Bridie & Nick Keisters, RIP
11.00am Ivan & Vjekoslava Wawryn, RIP
6.30pm Andrew Hinde

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Fernanda Miranda, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Koro Thomas, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am James Foy, RIP

Thursday *St Mary Magdalene*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Friday *St Bridget of Sweden*

10.45am Diana Smith, RIP

Saturday *St Sharbel Makhluf*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Ann Glackin

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-5.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, George.

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 4

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.

WEDDING

Please pray for Nicholas Ememe and Anna Harris who will be exchanging their marriage vows this Saturday afternoon in St Joseph's.

LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP 2021

This is for 12-18 year olds at Alton Castle, Staffs. Five days of fun and activities where young Catholics gain formation and friendships. Wednesday 28th July from 3pm to Sunday 1st August until 2pm. Cost: £225 for camping (provide your own tent). £275 for dormitory. Included in the price are accommodation, all food, daily Mass and Reconciliation, all activities including trekking, climbing, a day at Alton Towers Theme Park, biking, archery, camp-fires and more. For information and to go to the bookings page visit www.nymo.org/summercamp

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS

The Catholic Trust for England and Wales has purchased a package of e-learning programmes available to all members of the Catholic community free of charge as part of the Church's on-going commitment to safeguarding. Details and how to register your interest are on the noticeboard.

SMARTLOVING FERTILITY

An online course for learning how to manage fertility naturally in context of the Catholic faith. Based on the Sympto-Thermal method, the course incorporates a unique blend of scientific insights, relationship frameworks and Catholic theology. From now to 31st August, you can register for the course at 50% off to celebrate Natural Fertility Awareness Week.

Visit: www.smartloving.org/fertility

REQUISCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Randell. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

“Dear friends, build your house on rock. Try each day to follow Christ’s word. Listen to him as a true friend with whom you can share your path in life. With him at your side, you will find courage and hope to face difficulties and problems and even to overcome disappointments and set-backs.”

Pope Benedict XVI

GOSPEL REFLECTION Mark 6:30-34

The English philosopher and mathematician, Bertrand Russell, wrote the following words in the opening paragraph of his autobiography: *“Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge and the unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind.”* Bertrand was a professed atheist but anyone who can recognise these feelings in his or her heart cannot be far from the heart of God. As Jesus looks around our world today he must still be overcome with pity for suffering humanity who are *“like sheep without a shepherd.”* And he must surely be filled with desire to teach them as he taught the crowds by the lake-side so long ago. That work of teaching continues in the Church all over the world and it is done in imitation of our Lord and at his command. This is the very nature and essence of the Church's mission and purpose. But it is not a work confined to the official Church, to bishops, priests and religious. It is a work given to all who profess to be Christian by our fidelity, the example of our lives and our love for the person of our Lord. Such love should fill our hearts with compassion and love for others especially those who are perhaps rather lost and confused souls, *“like sheep without a shepherd”*. If we can recognise feelings of compassion and sympathy in our hearts then Christ's heart beats in us. We will naturally want to share his concern for them in their need and by so doing we actually teach them something about God; he becomes real to them because they will see him in our actions, in the way we speak and our largeness of heart. This is the way we teach the truth about God in a most effective and lasting way. It puts flesh on the bones of pure doctrine which can only tell us so much about the mystery of God. Translating knowledge into action is the key to true Christian living and this is what the saints have succeeded in doing down the ages. It is called ‘putting on Christ,’ viewing the world with his eyes of mercy and compassion, loving with his great heart.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory St Joseph's £1050.61
Apostleship of the Sea St Joseph £344.45

Our Lady's £306.40
Our Lady's £90.10

Thank you.