

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

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 25th July 2021



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Today is the first World day of Prayer for Grandparents, recognising their important role in family life and the passing on of the faith by word and example. A prayer is included in this newsletter which can be used by grandparents and the elderly.

CLIMATE TALKS

This year the UK will be 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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Ronald Madtha, RIP
9.30am Deacon Brendan Day
11.00am Eamon Caherty, RIP
6.30pm Gjon Qershia

Monday *SS Joachim & Anne*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Fr Patrick Slaney

Thursday *St Martha*

10.45am Mary Ann Graham

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Regina Chanpda

Saturday *St Ignatius of Loyola*

10.45am Winifred Banner, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Rodger McGettigan, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-5.00pm

CLEANING: Kahari, Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Eighteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 1

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 Connor Parks and Sinead Lyons who will be exchanging their marriage vows this Friday afternoon in St Joseph's.

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 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.

GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY PRAYER

I thank you, Lord, for the comfort of your presence. Even in times of loneliness, you are my hope and my confidence, you have been my rock and my fortress since my youth! I thank you for giving me a family and for having blessed me with a long life. I thank you for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me. I thank you for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which you call me. Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace, teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations. Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church, that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the world, that the storm of the pandemic might calm, the poor consoled and wars ended. Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment that you give me in the certainty that you are with me every day even until the end of the age. Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 6:1-15

There is no doubt about it! Our Lord performed a stupendous miracle that day in the sight of the vast crowd when he fed them with the loaves and the fishes. But it was not his intention merely to astound the crowd by this miracle. He performed miracles out of compassion but always they were pointers to something else. In this miracle we can see two things. We can see how our own feebleness can be multiplied into strength through union with Christ. The five loaves and two fish were manifestly insufficient to feed so many but when placed in the hands of Jesus they received the marvellous power of multiplication. Our minds and hearts, all our faculties, our actions, however insignificant in themselves, take on great importance once allied with Christ. Our whole life placed in his hands becomes full of greatness and meaning. The other important truth this miracle points to and foreshadows is the Eucharist, when our Lord at the last supper, would take in his hands bread and wine, bless them and distribute to the apostles his own body and blood. From then onwards this bread of life would be offered all over the world to countless millions. And just as at the feeding of the five thousand there were basketfuls of food left over, revealing just how generous our Lord is in giving, so the divine bread that he gives would be a generous giving. Every tabernacle in the world is proof of that. God is always lavish with his gifts, an inspiration to us to be similarly generous when called upon to give of our time and resources especially when it comes to feeding the hungry and helping the poor. St Paul tells us that the love of God is made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord. That same love is also made visible in you and me insofar as we concern ourselves with the needs of others, and there are plenty of opportunities each day to exercise such charity. We are weak and often fail but placing our poor efforts in our Lord's hands will change weakness into strength and multiply the love of God in our hearts.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £997.05

Our Lady's £196.00

Thank you.