

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

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

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**NINETEENTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
8th August 2021



PARISH PROJECT

Since prior to the pandemic to the present we have raised the sum of £5,188.80 for Mary's Meals and the Bedford Daycare Centre. This amount will be divided between these two charities which you have so generously supported. Thank you.

FUNDRAISING MEETING

To discuss a new parish 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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	George C. J. RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Teresita Pamintuan, RIP
	6.30pm	Deacon Liam Castle
Monday	<i>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Tuesday	<i>St Lawrence</i>	
	10.45am	Josephine McCaffrey, RIP
Wednesday	<i>St Clare</i>	
	10.45am	Walter Higgins, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Merin Bino
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Saturday	<i>St Maximilian Kolbe</i>	
	10.45am	Katy Starr

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Puch Libertucci & Family
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-6.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, George

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Assumption of Our Lady

Readers: Rota Week 3

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.

BEDFORD PRAYER LINE

Do you have worries or problems that are getting you down? Bedford Prayer Line is a phone line for anyone who feels overburdened or in need of prayer and would like our local Catholic communities to pray for them. Simply call the number 07835 571333 and leave a message. A church volunteer will check the messages and our local Catholic Church communities will pray for those leaving messages and their requests.

CAFOD APPEAL - CLIMATE CHANGE

There is an appeal today on behalf of CAFOD. It is not for money but to ask that we sign cards addressed to the Prime Minister on the matter of climate change and the devastation it is having and will have on the lives of our brothers and sisters especially in the poorer parts of our world. There are cards at the back of the church, so please take one and sign it. Either hand it back or post it or sign the petition online at www.cafod.org.uk/reclaim
Thank you.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

Inspired by the recent Guided Prayer Week, a small number of parishioners from different parishes in Bedford intend to form a Padre Pio Prayer Group. Anyone is welcome to join to pray for the Church's needs, for the sick, the needy, the lapsed, and those searching for truth and faith in God. The first meeting of the prayer group will be Monday 6th September at 3.00pm in Our Lady's parish meeting room, Kempston. Please contact Mary Frost at mary_frost1211@yahoo.co.uk or Claudio on 306901.

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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dilys Willis. May she rest in the peace of Christ. Funeral Mass Monday 16th August at 1.00pm.

GOSPEL REFLECTION John 6:41-51

At every turn Jesus was confronted with his origins: *"Can anything good come from Nazareth?... Surely this is the son of Joseph... We know his father and mother."* These comments run like a refrain through the gospels. They bound him to earth. They undermined his greatest claim that *"he had come down from heaven."* The concern of the Jews about our Lord's origin is perhaps a question we find ourselves asking, wondering if he is real, questioning his teachings, tempted to give up following or believing in him and walking away, as many do. What, then, keeps us going, keeps us believing in spite of everything? Surely the answer is in Christ's own words: *"To hear the teaching of the Father and learn from it is to come to me."* In other words, we continue to come to Jesus because, at the back of our minds, in the innermost depths of our conscience, is the nagging conviction that Jesus is right! That he has the words of eternal life. Our own experience of life means that we simply cannot run away or ignore his words for they ring true, constantly calling us to him. We find ourselves drawn to Christ by the Father who sent him. Especially are we drawn to him in the Eucharist, wherein we share his life at the deepest level. In the Eucharist we eat the living bread come down from heaven: the flesh of Christ given for the life of the world. And our union with him can only lead us to follow him by loving as he loves us. We are to share with others the union with God that we ourselves already enjoy. And in our union with Jesus we learn, as St Paul exhorts us, to be friends with one another, and kind, forgiving each other; in short, to imitate God as children of his whom he loves. This is the power and wonder of the Eucharist we celebrate. Like the prophet Elijah in the first reading, we continue the journey of life, the walk of faith, in the strength of that food until we reach the mountain of God, our eternal home in heaven.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1013.69

Our Lady's £293.00

Thank you.