

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

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

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ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

15th August 2021



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

We celebrate today the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady which commemorates the assumption of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, into the glory of heaven, body and soul. From there she continues her motherly role of praying for us and caring for us her children. Let us resolve to grow in faith and holiness in obedience to God like Mary, and so join her one day in the glory of our true home in heaven. *'Mary, assumed into heaven, pray for us who have recourse to thee.'*

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 Guild Room.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am John Voogd, RIP
11.00am Rosalind Richardson, RIP
6.30pm Georgina Mee

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Mr & Mrs Ishombo, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Sister Maria Medina, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Clement Francis, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Michael Keenan, RIP

Friday *St Bernard*

10.45am James Foy, RIP

Saturday *St Pius X*

10.45am Harry Smith, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Anna-Maria & Fulvio Cafolla, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

On your right stands the queen in garments of gold.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-6.00pm

CLEANING: Kahari, Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty First 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.

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.

SVP-KNOCK & DROP

Non-perishable food items are still needed for the Knock & Drop appeal. These can be placed in the box at the back of the church.

BEDFORD FOODBANK

Items for this can be placed in the green bin at the back of St Joseph's church and the marked box in Our Lady's church. Thank you.

CAFOD APPEAL - CLIMATE CHANGE

Last week there was an appeal on behalf of CAFOD. If you did not get a Petition Card, you can always sign, if you wish, the petition online at www.cafod.org.uk/reclaim. Everyone in the family can complete it and there is a box to tick if you are under 18 years. 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.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

A favourite gospel passage read at funeral Masses is Jesus' words in John 14:3: "*I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.*" Our Lady is the fulfilment of that promise. Today's feast of the Assumption invites us to direct our gaze towards our true destiny which lies beyond the confines of this world. Each of us needs new vision and we need the mystery of Mary's assumption to lift our eyes beyond earthly horizons. The grace of this feast is to make us more keenly aware that here we are in a world of shadows, that the great realities lie ahead; we live in a state of longing for our native air, the resurrection air of heaven. Mary, assumed into heaven, beckons us away and helps us to set our sights on the land of our dreams. And as we see her in glory, we know that she will help us as we struggle on, even though we often fall and fail and sin. Always does she look lovingly upon us. Always is she interceding with her Son for us. Today's feast directs our gaze, our minds, to higher things, to the complete union with God that Mary now enjoys. It tells us where we are going. It reassures us that if we keep our attention directed to beyond our more immediate needs and desires, we will not stumble. We ask Our Lady now to guide us. May our faith in her assumption give us renewed hope for the world and for ourselves that, in God's heavenly kingdom, united with our Blessed Lady, we may enjoy the perfection of love and the fullness of life forever.

'Today earth has sent a priceless gift to heaven. Blessed indeed is Mary, blessed in many ways, both in receiving the Saviour and in being received by the Saviour.'

St Bernard of Clairvaux

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1028.83

Our Lady's £292.50

Thank you.