

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

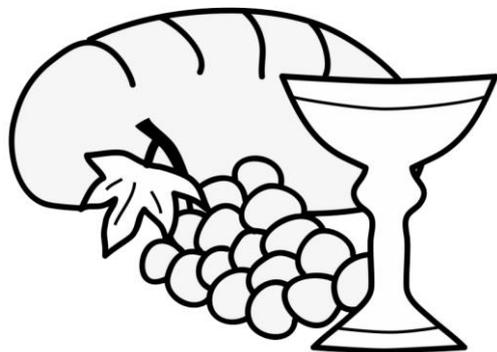
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Pius Duke MSP

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## TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021



### READERS & MINISTERS

A series of Zoom sessions is planned for Readers & Ministers of Holy Communion led by the Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team. Readers: Wednesdays 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> September & 6<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Ministers: Wednesdays 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Please register in advance to secure a place by email or phone: [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or 01582 723312 (ext.1). Once booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the Zoom sessions.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October, the diocesan Youth Ministry will be holding its annual Conference at its offices in Luton. The theme will focus on re-engaging our young people in the Church post lockdown and is open to anyone with an interest in the future of young people in the Church. Conference from 11am to 3.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and can be booked online at [www.nymo.org/product/youth-ministry-conference](http://www.nymo.org/product/youth-ministry-conference). More info at: [www.nymo.org/conference](http://www.nymo.org/conference)

### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Ronald Madtha, RIP  
9.30am Huw Hughes, RIP  
11.00am People of the Parish  
6.30pm King Family

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Sterling Family, RIP

Tuesday *St Bartholomew*

10.45am Joseph Johnston

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Mr & Mrs Joseph Kurisunkal, RIP

Thursday *Blessed Dominic Barbarie*

10.45am Dilys Willis, RIP

Friday *St Monica*

10.45am Andrew Hinde & Dick Gardner

Saturday *St Augustine*

10.45am In Thanksgiving (Sloman)

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm In Thanksgiving (Varghese Family)

**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-7.00pm

**CLEANING:** Daniels, Okonkwo

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Price

**NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Second 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.

### **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.

## **FUNDRAISING MEETING**

To discuss a new parish project and to arrange events, there will be a meeting of the fundraising committee on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

## **PARISH FORUM**

The Parish Forum will meet on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm Guild Room.

## **MASS IN KEYSOE**

Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's Church, Keysoe on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 3.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

## **SVP-KNOCK & DROP**

Non-perishable food items 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.

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00pm in Our Lady's parish meeting room, Kempston. Please contact Mary Frost at [mary\\_frost1211@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mary_frost1211@yahoo.co.uk) or Claudio on 306901.

## **REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Bartholomew Swift and Mary Mullin. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION: John 6:60-69**

Rejection is a painful experience and Jesus must have been hurt when some of his followers no longer went with him because of his teaching on the Eucharist. What was Jesus offering that made the rejection of it so very sad? It was the gift of himself in the Eucharist. *"My flesh is real food... He who eats of this bread will live forever..."* And when they could not accept his words, he did not recant, but let them go. They had witnessed so many miracles; he had cured so many sick; he had spoken so often of the gift of himself to those who believed in him. Yet those who saw and heard were free, as we are free, to accept or to reject what he offers. They chose what they already had rather than take the risk of following him. They opted for safety and security rather than being open to the message and invitation of Jesus. Choosing whether or not to follow the Lord is a choice we all have to make each day, as the changing circumstances of our lives requires us to decide whether to risk trying to live by his teaching or to walk away and remain safe in our old securities. Following Jesus is not for the faint-hearted, not an easy option. It demands trust, faith, courage, fortitude and surrender. These don't come easily to us, but remember what Jesus says: *"No one can come to me unless the Father draws him."* Because the Father has drawn us by faith we are able to believe in him and take him at his word. Once we accept the invitation to follow, grace takes over and God begins to act in us enabling us to say our 'yes' to him every day and he will say his 'yes' to us, affirming us in the faith that we profess. *"Will you, too, go away?"* No! With St Peter and the Apostles we know, we believe that Jesus is indeed the Holy One of God and that he alone has the words of eternal life.

*"The Eucharist is truly the Heart of Jesus."*

Blessed Carlo Acutis

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1388.55**

**Our Lady's £284.20 Thank you.**