

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

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TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

29th August 2021



FIRST COMMUNION 2022

Enrolment forms for First Communion classes, beginning this autumn, are now available from the sacristy. Numbers, again, will be limited, so please do not delay in enrolling.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

On Saturday 9th 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

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Derek & Anna Ruff
	11.00am	Mathai KT, RIP
	6.30pm	Margaret Roberts, RIP
Monday	<i>Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward</i>	
	10.45am	Sheila Birch, RIP
Tuesday	<i>St Aidan & the Saints of Lindisfarne</i>	
	10.45am	Giuseppe Zonta, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Bartholomew Swift
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Maggie Sloman
Friday	<i>Pope St Gregory the Great</i>	
	10.45am	Kenneth & Elsie Petts, RIP
Saturday	<i>St Cuthbert</i>	
	10.45am	Philip Allen

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	John Coffey, RIP
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Petts, George

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Third Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None for the present

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the much needed gift of peace in our world.

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.

MASS IN KEYSOE

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

SVP - KNOCK & DROP

Knock & Drop needs contributions more than ever. It has been a great success but demand, rather than reducing, has grown, and we urgently need donations of non-perishable food. You can leave these items in the marked box at the back of both churches. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's parish are now available for collection at the back of the church.

READERS & MINISTERS

A series of Zoom sessions is planned for Readers & Ministers of Holy Communion led by the Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team. Readers: Wednesdays 22nd, 29th September & 6th October 7.30pm-8.30pm. Ministers: Wednesdays 3rd, 10th & 17th November 7.30pm-8.30pm. Please register in advance to secure a place by email or phone: 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.

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. 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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Mark 7:1-8. 14-15

The human heart is complex. And I'm not referring to that physical pump that keeps us alive, but rather that inner core and sanctuary of our being from which good and bad intentions emerge. Jesus, in today's gospel, shines his spotlight onto it. He exposes men's intentions and does not flinch from naming what makes a man unclean in the eyes of God. Equally, it is from this same source that good intentions and actions emerge. So this is the battleground for the very soul of man, for our very souls. It is the place where we shall receive the judgement of God. Hence the constant need to take stock of ourselves in the light that shines on us from God. If we sincerely try to live according to the precepts of the gospel then we have nothing to fear from that judgement. The ancient philosopher, Socrates, taught, '*know thyself.*' This is the secret of living a virtuous life free from hypocrisy and cant. Jesus is patient with sinners, he seeks them out and spends time with them teaching, healing, forgiving yet when it comes to the Scribes and Pharisees he is provoked to anger because they regarded themselves as virtuous and morally superior. But he knew their hearts and could not see the love of God in them. They had little insight to their behaviour and failed to see their need of forgiveness. Here the human heart had atrophied and no longer understood the meaning of mercy and the love of God. The diagnosis is clear but so is the remedy for this condition, this malady; Jesus himself. He alone can render a cure and therefore we come to him seeking healing and reconciliation which leads to a renewed heart wherein is found the fruits of the Spirit: charity, joy, peace patience, goodness, kindness, perseverance, humility, faith, modesty, self-control, chastity. We come before the Lord, therefore, acknowledging our need of forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation where he reclaims us from the evil one and fortifies us for the battles ahead for our minds and hearts. The victory is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1296.81

Our Lady's £210.50

Thank you.