

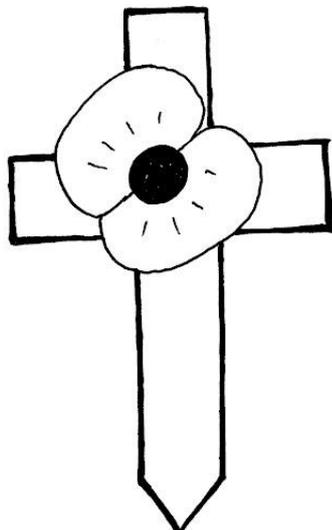
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

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**THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
14th November 2021



PATRICIA BYRNE RIP

Fr Gerard Byrne's mother Patricia died last week. Many of you will remember Fr Gerard from his time as assistant priest here before his move to Corby. Please pray for him and the repose of his mother's soul. No funeral arrangements have been announced yet.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

It is planned to resume the Children's Liturgy in both parishes from Sunday 28th November at the 9.30am Mass in St Joseph's and the Vigil Mass in Our Lady's. Social distancing will be maintained and it will not be practicable to invite any child in church to come forward. Twelve children can be accommodated safely in St Joseph's and six to seven in Our Lady's. For the time being we will limit attendance to ages 6 to 9 inclusive. To avoid over-crowding, it will not be possible for parents to come. Everything will be kept under review as the coronavirus diminishes. If you would like your child to attend, please pick up a registration form from the sacristy.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Chris & Eric McNaughton, RIP
9.30am Holy Souls
11.00am Thommy Joseph, RIP
6.30pm Holy Souls

Monday *St Albert the Great*

10.45am Thressiamma & Varkey Varghese

Tuesday *St Margaret of Scotland*

10.45am Holy Souls

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Thursday *Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul*

10.45am William Orr, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Saturday *St Edmund*

10.45am James Foy, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Edmond Connolly, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Feast of Christ the King

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Resumes on 28th November

CONFIRMATION 2022

Those wishing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation next year, i.e. Year 9 of school or older, are asked to collect an enrolment form from the sacristy. Preparation Classes will start in January 2022. Any adults seeking Confirmation will be seen separately.

RETIRING COLLECTION

Today for the Sick & Retired Clergy Fund. Please place your donation in the basket at the back of the church. Thank you.

CURRY NIGHT

Many thanks to all who attended the Curry Night. A total of £55 was raised for our parish project.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards and other religious items will be on sale from next Sunday in both churches. Any profits will go towards our parish project.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Tickets for our Christmas Draw this year are now on sale after Mass from today onwards at £2.50 a book. Prizes for the draw gratefully received and can be delivered to the presbytery or church.

SYNOD-OPEN MEETING

As part of the preparations for the Synod called by Pope Francis in 2023 in Rome, he wants to consult the whole Church at diocesan and parish level about the life and mission of the Church. There will be an opportunity to do this in our parish at an open meeting on Saturday 20th November at 3.00pm in the Guild Room at St Joseph's. All are welcome to the discussion and conversation. Our contribution will be fed into the Bedford Pastoral Area and on to the diocese.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

If you wish to include the names of your deceased loved ones in the daily Masses during the month of November, then please list them and place the list in the envelopes provided at the back of the church and return these to the presbytery or the church.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Blessing of graves in Norse Road today. Kempston Sunday 21st Nov. Each service will begin with prayers near the entrance to the cemetery at 2.30pm followed by the blessing of individual graves.

LUX. WEEKEND PILFRIMAGE

This pilgrimage to Walsingham organised by the Diocesan Youth Ministry is for those in Year 7 to 13 of school. When? February 4th – 6th 2022. Cost: £140 per person including return transport from either Northampton or Luton. All the information can be found at www.nymo.org/lux

TEA & TALK

Another opportunity to come together for tea and talk on Monday 15th November in Our Lady's meeting room at 2.30pm. All welcome.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

We like to prepare for things especially important events. We put them in our diaries so as not to forget. But the end of the world, as we know it, is not something we can put in our diaries! Jesus reveals that that no one knows when except the Father. And we are not talking about extinction but transformation. Our world and indeed the whole universe is destined for glory when Christ comes again. We shall share in the glory of Christ forever and not just us but the whole of creation. Some event that will be! So if we do not know when, how can we prepare? Well, we work at being ready for God's kingdom continually. This need of constant readiness can seem like a burden but Christ "*has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying.*" (First Reading). That's you and me, folks! The burden is lifted. What is more, our continual readiness is not purely achieved through our own efforts but through the power of Christ which is continually sanctifying us, renewing us, shaping us. The power Christ gives is already ours if we truly desire and pray for it. That we do not know the hour when Jesus will come means living every day as if that moment were at hand. The fervent prayer of the early Church was '*Come, Lord Jesus!*' It is a prayer I often use, longing and keeping alive that sense of longing for the coming of the kingdom of God in glory when every tear will be wiped away and death will be no more. Every true Christian should long and pray for that day, for it is what we are made for. In the meantime, the sacramental life of the Church reminds us that Jesus is not simply someone who will return, but a person who is with us now, walking with us, guiding us, supporting us all along the way and getting us ready to join him for eternity. For the end of the world comes to each of us when we die. But that is when life really begins! Such thoughts should make us eager for the fulfilment of God's plan, his story which has no end and where each chapter is better than the one before.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1004.29

Our Lady's £273.70

Thank you.

Bishop's Maintenance Fund

St Joseph's £339.63

Our Lady's £46.10