

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

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: stjosephsbedford@yahoo.co.uk

CHRIST THE KING
21st November 2021



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy resumes next Sunday at the 9.30am Mass in St Joseph's and at 6.00pm 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 today.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am K.M. Paulose & Rosakutty, RIP
9.30am Holy Souls
11.00am Holy Souls
6.30pm Petro Siani, RIP

Monday *St Cecilia*
10.45am Owen & Bea Keane, RIP

Tuesday *St Columban*
10.45am Holy Souls

Wednesday *St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions*
10.45am Rosalind Richardson, RIP

Thursday *Feria*
10.45am Holy Souls

Friday *Feria*
10.45am Holy Souls

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*
10.45am Holy Souls

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Edmond Connolly, RIP

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, George

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Advent

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Lyn Bull.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards and other religious items on sale today 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 today at £2.50 a book. Prizes for the draw gratefully received and can be delivered to the presbytery or church.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Blessing of graves in Kempston cemetery today at 2.30pm. We will meet in the car-park for a short service followed by the blessing of individual graves.

FILM ON POPE FRANCIS

A special viewing of a new film about the life of Pope Francis, 'Francesco', is scheduled for Thursday 25th November at 6.30pm in the new St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral, Kingsthorpe Road, NN2 6AG. Made in collaboration with Pope Francis, this film explores his life and the priorities he sees as central to his Papacy. The director of the film will be present who will join a panel for questions and answers after the film. The invitation to see the film is free of charge. For more information and to book a visit go to www.northamptondiocese.org/francesco

ONLINE DISCUSSION

This Monday, 22nd November, the diocesan Youth Ministry will be hosting an online discussion via Zoom on the Theology of the Body and how best to approach this subject when used in group settings with young people. The session runs from 7.00pm to 8.30pm and is open to all who work with young people in the Church, including catechists and volunteers. If you would like to attend this session, please email info@nymo.org so that the Zoom codes can be sent to you.

EMMAUS

Described as a heart-warming journey with Jesus as he explains the Scriptures and equips us for mission, this event is being hosted by Mission Northampton, the new diocesan agency. This weekend experience runs from 10am on Sat 27th to 3.00pm on Sun 28th November at the St Thomas Centre, Northampton Cathedral. Lunch and dinner on Sat and lunch on Sun are included within the £55 overall cost. To register and pay or for further information, please go to:

www.northamptondiocese.org/events/a-weekend-journey-to-emmaus/

LUX. WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE

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

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Christmas Concert this year in aid of our parish project will be on Friday 17th December at 7.30pm in St Joseph's church. Anyone who would like to take part in the concert by way of entertainment, please let me know.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

When Jesus appeared before Pilate, in today's gospel, he did not deny that he was indeed a king, but not of this world. He did not seek earthly power and disdained earthly trappings. His kingdom was to be one of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace. And these values were to be found in the human heart turned to God. Pilate wasn't much interested in such high minded notions. He was a military man who only knew power at the point of a sword! Hence his dismissal of Jesus with the cynical remark, "*What is truth?*" In many ways today people have become cynical about religion and what it teaches and promises. I think this is a disease of the west mainly. You don't find this attitude so much in poorer societies whose people have a greater trust in the providence of God and indeed belief in a loving God. Well, there is no point in wringing our hands about it! We just have to get on and live the values of the kingdom and then it will come about. That's the whole thrust of Christ's teaching; putting it into practise. If we do, then the kingdom of God will begin to be established in our hearts. This is not to claim a part in a kingdom of external power, ("*my kingdom is not of this world*") but to enter into a relationship of love. We can do this when we speak to him in prayer and when we welcome him in the Eucharist. We are in that kingdom when we help each other, when we seek justice and speak peace, when we forgive and show compassion, when we live by the truth, ("*all who are the side of truth listen to my voice*"). We listen to him who is our shepherd-king, leading us, guiding us through this confusing world. The kingdom Jesus speaks of will only come in its fullness when he returns in glory. Then these values will be established forever and will constitute our eternal happiness, a taste of which can be had even now as we strive to live by them.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1243.67

Our Lady's £205.40

Thank you.

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund St Joseph's £379.90