

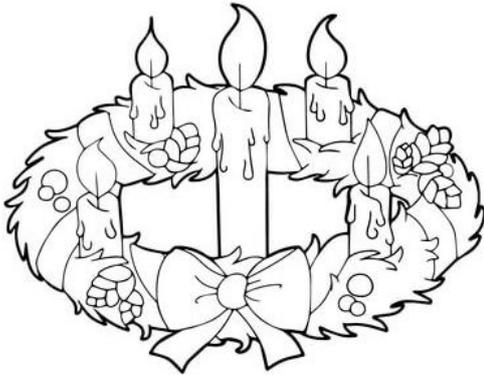
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

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**FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**
28th November 2021



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Today, at the 9.30am Mass in St Joseph's, we resume the Children's Liturgy for those between the ages of 6 and 9 inclusive. If parents would like their children to attend, please pick up a registration form from the sacristy.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

This Saturday for the children preparing for their First Confession and Holy Communion at 9.15am in the Guild Room.

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

There will be a Retiring Collection next Sunday after all Masses in St Joseph's for flowers for the Christmas season.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	In Thanksgiving: Sabichan Family
	9.30am	Holy Souls
	11.00am	Tom & Mary Kelly, RIP
	6.30pm	Franc Rozman, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	<i>St Andrew</i>	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Franciska Rozman, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Dennis Gilbert, RIP
Friday	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	
	10.45am	Tim & Maria Fordham
Saturday	<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>	
	10.45am	Rowland Morgan, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Catherine Lloyd
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)
St Joseph's:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Kahari, Ndoro

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Advent

Readers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Molly Orme

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.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for peace.

MARY'S MEALS TALK

There will be a brief talk next Sunday at the 9.30am and 11.00am Masses on the work of Mary's Meals and by way of thanks for our fund-raising efforts for this charity.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

This year we will be celebrating the feast on Monday 13th December at 7.30pm in St Joseph's with Mass at which Bishop David Oakley will preside.

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, please let me know.

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

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass next Sunday.

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT

Online Advent Retreat with Canon John Udris starting this Monday, go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/advent-retreat-lift-up-your-eyes-and-see-tickets-195238893787>

RED MISSION BOXES

If you have a Red Mission Box, please return it to either church by mid-December. Please collect a new box. If you have Gift Aided your donations be sure your name is on the bottom of the box. Please Gift Aid if you can. There are Missio calendars at the back of the church to take home with you. Missio thanks you for your continued support for the missionary work of the Church throughout the world.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Advent is a time of focus. We immerse ourselves in prophecy, allowing the word of the Lord to shed its light on our lives and on the times in which we live. This light will give us a context which will help us to understand better who we are and what our existence is about, its meaning and direction and destiny. Jesus wants to give us a vision that looks beyond the here and now, a vision that looks to eternity and the Eternal One. This vision helps to put things in perspective and the ability of seeing to the mystery of life which is more than what is just in front of us, which so easily occupies our thoughts and attention. Jesus directs our gaze to the end times when he will return in power and great glory. He will roll up the scroll of history and usher in a new era, the era of the eternal kingdom of God where suffering and death are no more; the things of the past are gone and he makes all things new. Despite the disasters that may happen in our personal lives or in the world we are to look up to him who rescues us because our ultimate end is not disaster but salvation and eternal life. Whilst Our Lord's talk about the end times may sound frightening, the message is one of hope. So whatever happens, we must not lose heart because our liberation is at hand. We are to stay alert, we are not to be distracted by the events of this passing life but keep our focus on what really matters and on him who is the Way the Truth and the Life. The Son of Man is coming and we are given the grace and the strength to stand before him with confidence. His coming spells liberation, freedom! Only those whose lives are evil need fear the coming of the Holy One. We are pilgrims together in joy and hope, and let nothing or no one rob you of that as we journey towards the kingdom of eternal joy and peace. Christ came into the world to remind us of this truth. So lift your eyes to the Holy One, the far-seeing eyes of faith, and pray the words of today's psalm:

'Lord, make me know your ways. Lord teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God my saviour.'

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory St Joseph's £977.25
Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

Our Lady's £300.69
Our Lady's £55.99

Thank you.