

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: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**
5th December 2021



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy has resumed at the 9.30am Mass in St Joseph's 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 CONFESSIONS

A reminder that First Confessions will be celebrated this Friday at 6.00pm in St Joseph's church for those children preparing for this sacrament.

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.

HEALING SERVICE

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

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS

We have a new email address as printed above.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Brendan Day
11.00am Larry Conroy, RIP
6.30pm Nik & Family

Monday *St Nicholas*

10.45am Evelyn Foy, RIP

Tuesday *St Ambrose*

10.45am Eileen Williams, RIP

Wednesday *Immaculate Conception of Our Lady*

10.45am Katy Scarr

Thursday *St Juan Diego*

10.45am Nicolas Robles, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Walter Champkin, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am Mary, Ciro & Luigi Guerriero, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Catherine Lloyd

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Daniels

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Advent

Readers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

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.

RETIRING COLLECTION

There is a Retiring Collection today after all Masses in St Joseph's for flowers for the Christmas season. Please place your donations in the basket at the back of the church. Thank you.

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. Tickets at £5 on sale today. Come and enjoy some Christmas cheer!

PASTORAL LETTER

There will be a Pastoral Letter read at all Masses next Sunday from Bishop David.

MARY'S MEALS TALK

There will be a brief talk at the 9.30am and 11.00am Masses today on the work of Mary's Meals 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.

DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

The Divine Mercy and Rosary Devotions resume this Monday in SS Philip & James Church, Severn Way, and each Monday at 1.45pm. All welcome.

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. Thank you for your continued support for the missionary work of the Church throughout the world.

SVP REPORT

Many parishioners may not be aware of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) or what it does. The six SVP Conferences in the Bedford area have, therefore, produced a leaflet describing briefly their recent activities. The leaflets will be available from SVP members after the Masses today. Please take a leaflet.

REFLECTION

We can all do with some good news, some good cheer, especially in these endless days of pandemic (though I have a feeling that it may end soon), and other oppressive happenings in life beyond our control. Let us then listen again to the hope-filled words of the prophet Baruch in the first reading today: *'Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east ...for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.'* This prophecy was for a people in exile from their land and a promise of return. We are all exiles, away from our true country, God's country. That is why there is always a certain sadness that taints our earthly existence, a longing that cannot be satisfied by anything or anyone in this life. There is in each of us a hunger and a yearning for something more. When a fellow sister in community remarked that life is sad, St Therese corrected her by observing that life is not sad, exile is sad! This is the unexplained sadness that is the undercurrent of our earthly existence. It is only relieved when we come to Christ and realise that he is the cure for our sadness, that he is the only one who can soothe our aching hearts until we come to him in the fullness of life in heaven. Once we acknowledge this, once we realise our human condition of woundedness, the Lord can then set about restoring us, healing us and filling us with hope like those exiles to whom Baruch prophesied. And that hope is the person of Jesus, God made man at Christmas, entering our human condition, sharing our lot and whispering to our hearts, *'all will be well.'* This is the good news we need to hear. To live in that good news is light and a power that can level every high mountain of despair, fill in every valley of sin, making a straight highway for us back to the promised land, our home. This is not wishful thinking on our part or a vain hope, but the truth that Jesus came to reveal. Keeping our eyes fixed on this is a must as we make our way through life until we come to that place of rest, the land of our dreams. Then in the words of the psalm: *'our mouths will be filled with laughter and on our lips there will be song.'* Psalm 125

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1156.30

Our Lady's £193.80

Thank you.