

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

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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12th December 2021

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Liam Connolly, RIP
9.30am Frank McEvoy, RIP
11.00am Elisabetta Zeno & Simone Ascione
6.30pm Kathy Stallard

Monday *St Lucy*

10.45am Emil Zatko, RIP

Tuesday *St John of the Cross*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Canon Seamus Keenan

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Celia Goodstadt, RIP

Friday *O Wisdom*

10.45am Maureen McCormack, RIP

Saturday *O Adonai*

10.45am Irena & Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Bridget McGettigan, RIP

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



CHRISTMAS MASSES

There will be no Children's Christmas Mass again this year in either church because of pressure of numbers. There will be, however, a Vigil mass on Christmas Eve in St Joseph's at 8.00pm followed by Midnight Mass at midnight, preceded by carols and readings at 11.30pm. There will also be a Vigil Mass Christmas Eve in Our Lady's at 6.00pm with a 9.30am Mass on Christmas Day. The Christmas Day Masses in St Joseph's will be at 8.15am, 9.30am and 11.00am.

PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral Letter will be read at all Masses today from our Bishop.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Christmas Concert 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!

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS

We have a new email address as printed above.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Kahari, Ngoro.

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Bimla Mathew

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

We are celebrating the feast on Monday 13th December at 7.30pm in St Joseph's with Mass preceded by the Rosary at 7.00pm led by Radio Maria. Bishop David Oakley will preside at the Mass.

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.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

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

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. Today's Liturgy is the last one until 16th January.

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.

VOLUNTEER CHURCH CLEANERS

We very much need volunteers willing to clean St Joseph's church on a rota basis. Usually on a Friday morning either before or after the Mass. Please do consider this appeal. If you want a clean church we need people to clean it! Open to men and women. Please let me know.

HYMN BOOKS AND NEWSLETTERS

Talking of cleaning, there is usually quite a mess created after Mass with hymn books and newsletters being placed on top of the hymn book cabinet. The books should be re-placed tidily **inside** the cabinet and the newsletters taken home. Please make an effort to keep this area tidy and not leave it to someone else.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Starting on Monday 17th January a Charismatic Prayer Group will commence in St Joseph's church, meeting in the Reconciliation Chapel from 7.30pm. All are warmly welcome to attend. For further information, please contact Ted Fawcett on 838134.

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.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS

The Knights of St Columba have produced Christmas posters available at the back of the church to display in your windows.

REFLECTION

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is known as 'Gaudete Sunday', which means rejoice! The equivalent in Lent is 'Laetare'. St Paul, today, tells us to be happy, always happy in the Lord and to pray. He links happiness with prayer. On the face of it, somewhat a tall order. But is it? It does not mean that we are to go around with a permanent grin, not allowed to show grief or appropriate anger or solemn thoughtfulness. How do we stay happy at all times with all that we see happening in the world especially this pandemic, or with all that may be happening in our own lives? No one can wave a wand over us and make us happy, but we can ourselves take responsibility, that whether we are sad or glad, nothing in the mystery which is God can in the end harm us. Christian joy is independent of anything external to us because it is rooted in the continual presence of Christ. A true Christian cannot lose his or her happiness because we cannot lose Christ. St Paul tells us to pray at all times. Prayer is so important in this longing for real, genuine happiness. Giving time to this is vital for that joy which is not of this world. A lifting of the mind and heart to God in prayer, however brief, keeps alive that sense of the divine, of the presence of God. And if we can find extended time to pray, all the better. This allows for God to speak to us as we stay silent in his presence. Then we will find ourselves rejoicing in the Lord always, even in times of trouble or anxiety. If we trust God, trust in his love and in his longing to be with us, then whether sad or glad, we will find a serenity that no one or no thing can take from us. This is pure gift! Pray for it. It is prayer that makes us receptive to the gift. May we never let anything so fill us with pain or sorrow as to make us forget the joy of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *"There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it...and the peace of God, which is so much greater that we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus."* Phil. 4:4-7

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1141.31

Our Lady's £252.20

Thank you.