

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

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**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**  
19<sup>th</sup> December 2021



## CHRISTMAS

As the yearly feast of Christmas approaches it invites us to stop and gaze with wonder at this great mystery of God as a little baby in the arms of Mary his mother. This is indeed the wonder and joy of our faith. It tells us that God came into our world to be close to us and that he understands, that he is the light and the hope we need in our lives which remain lost and without meaning devoid of him. All fear and sadness give way to this mystery so bright.

## PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be a Penitential Service with individual Confessions this Wednesday at 7.00pm in St Joseph's. Confessions in Our Lady's available after the Vigil Mass today.

## PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Children's Christmas Mass this year. Mass times for Christmas are on this facing page. Also, the Mass for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December in Our Lady's will be at 9.30am next Sunday.

## Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Abraham Apolinaro, RIP
	11.00am	Yvaine Amelia Philip, RIP
	6.30pm	Angela & Bill Letch
Monday	<i>O Key</i>	
	10.45am	James Foy, RIP
Tuesday	<i>O Rising Sun</i>	
	10.45am	Dennis Gilbert, RIP
Wednesday	<i>O King</i>	
	10.45am	Janince Szyszko, RIP
Thursday	<i>O Emmanuel</i>	
	10.45am	Michael Keenan, RIP
Friday	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	
	10.45am	Marie Leahy
	8.00pm	Vigil Mass: Emma Moloney, RIP
	12.00am	Midnight Mass: People of the Parish
Saturday	<i>Christmas Day</i>	
	8.15am	Fr Finton Crotty, RIP
	9.30am	Rosalind Richardson, RIP
	11.00am	Dick Gardner

## Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Chaston & Bolongaita Families, RIP
Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Ann Connolly, RIP
Christmas Day	9.30am	John Coffey, RIP
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am	John Smyth, RIP

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

**CLEANING:** Kahari, Ngoro

**FLOWERS:** All flower arrangers

**NEXT SUNDAY: Feast of the Holy Family**

**Readers:** Rota Week 2

**Children's Liturgy:** None until 16<sup>th</sup> January

## CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Last chance today to buy Christmas cards and other items from the stall at the back of the church.

## CHRISTMAS POSTERS

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

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> January.

## **CHRISTMAS DRAW**

Last chance to purchase tickets for our Christmas Draw which will be drawn this Sunday evening after Mass. Many thanks for donated prizes.

## **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. Open to men and women. Please let me know.

## **CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

Starting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY**

If you would like to subscribe to this new Catholic online news weekly then please go to [www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk/subscribe) or phone Michelle on 07436617650 or email: [sales@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:sales@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

*'Silence is the space of this Child. Silence is the sphere where God is born. It is only when we ourselves enter the sphere of silence that we reach the place where God is born.'*

Pope Benedict XVI

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

The joy of motherhood is evident in these two women as they meet to share their good news. Elizabeth, in her old age, expecting a longed for child and Mary bearing in her womb the long hoped for of the nations. God was about to fulfil his promise to Israel, his chosen people, chosen so that God could come into his own creation and reclaim it from the power sin and Satan. And this is how clever God is, in that he chose these two insignificant women, in the eyes of the world, to hood-wink the wisdom of the world in order to implement his great plan for our world which had completely lost its way and was heading for ruin under the power of the devil, the great deceiver. In a tiny part of Israel, these two great women of faith came together to rejoice excitedly in what God was doing not only for them but the whole world. They perhaps did not fully understand the significance and the magnitude of what was happening but they sensed something great was about to take place, and they were especially prepared and chosen to play their part. And because they said their yes to God's will they allowed him to act, and decisively so! Hence their joy. Even the child in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy! That child would be the herald of Christ, preparing a people fit for him, John the Baptist. Our God is the God of surprises! Who would have thought of such a plan and remedy for this world; the almighty God appearing as a weak, helpless child! The devil didn't see that one coming! But we see in this child the hope of the nations, the light of the world. God is here, he is close, he is with us. How consoling that is and what joy should fill us as it filled Mary and Elizabeth. We are pregnant with joy! We carry it to others as Mary carried Jesus to her cousin. In a world that can be a very dark place at times, devoid of hope and joy, may we radiate the light of the Christ-child wherever we tread. Ask the Lord, ask his Mother, ask Elizabeth to share their own joy with us. Ask in prayer and it will not be denied us. With Mary we can then say, "My soul glorifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!"

*Wishing you the joy and peace of Christmas. Canon Seamus & Fr Pius.*

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1258.52**

**Our Lady's £275.75**

**Thank you.**