

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

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## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022



### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

This Thursday is the Feast of the Epiphany, when we recall how the Magi, representing the pagan world at the time, came to do homage to the Christ-child. They recognised in his birth the beginning of God's great plan for the redemption and salvation of the world, a work that continues to the present day in the mission of the Church. Bringing with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they acknowledge this child to be divine and the one who is destined to suffer. We, too, offer him gifts. The gold of our love, the frankincense of our prayer and the myrrh of our sufferings and sacrifices. Mass for the feast is at 10.45am and 7.30pm in St Joseph's and 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

### SONGS OF PRAISE

We are invited to an Ecumenical Songs of Praise Service at St Paul's Church, town centre, this evening, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 5.30pm. See poster on the noticeboard for details.

### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Danny & Ann Ferry & Family  
9.30am People of the Parish  
11.00am Melanie Lewis  
6.30pm Ethan Powell

Monday *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*  
10.45am Charlie Sterling, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*  
10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*  
10.45am Jane Harrison, RIP

Thursday *The Epiphany of the Lord*  
10.45am Bridget & Michael Slattery, RIP  
7.30pm People of the Parish

Friday *Feria*  
10.45am Liubov Nikifozova, RIP

Saturday *Feria*  
10.45am Evelyn

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Angela Ansell, RIP  
Thursday 7.30pm Bridie Cullen, RIP

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

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Thomas, Aoko, Bahoum, Cummings

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Redmond

**NEXT SUNDAY: Baptism of the Lord**

**Readers:** Rota Week 4

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

### **CRIB OFFERING**

Money placed in the Crib Offering box is in aid of our parish project, the MS Centre, Bedford and the International Refugee Trust.

### **CHRISTMAS DRAW**

The list of prize winners is now on the noticeboard. Thanks to all who donated prizes and bought tickets which raised £1065.30 for the parish project. Our best ever! Prizes can be collected from the presbytery.

## **SURPLUS GIFT SALE**

There will be a Surplus Gift Sale in aid of our parish project on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January after the Masses in the Guild Room of St Joseph's and in the church porch of Our Lady's, (Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan). Items for the sale can be left at the presbytery or church.

## **SVP KNOCK & DROP APPEAL**

The Bedford District of the SVP continues to provide food parcels and support for vulnerable people. A box marked Knock & Drop is to be found at the back of the church in St Joseph's and in the church porch in Our Lady's to place donations of non-perishable food. Thank you.

## **BEDFORD FOODBANK**

The Bedford Foodbank also needs non-perishable food items plus toiletries. These can be placed in the green bin in St Joseph's or the marked box in the church porch in Our Lady's. Again, thank you.

## **FR FINTAN CROTTY MEMORIAL MASS**

Fr Fintan Crotty, who served at Holy Cross Church, Goldington Road for a total of 20 years, died on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Frs Fergal and Chris will be celebrating Mass for Fr Fintan on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm at Holy Cross and all are welcome to attend.

## **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.

*Wishing you God's blessing,  
protection and peace in the year  
ahead.*

*Canon Seamus & Fr Pius*

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION John 1:1-18**

When we ponder the Christmas story and listen today to the sublime introduction to the gospel of St John, we are assured that our God is not a distant God. He actually came to live among us. But there sounds a chord of haunting sadness in the prologue of today's gospel which occurs many times in the great symphony of sacred scripture: God loving man so much; man appreciating God so little. *'He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.'* And yet, interwoven with that sad theme of man's ingratitude is one happy chord. Some people will accept God's love and *'to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.'* That includes you and me. We are his adopted sons and daughters: *'Of his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.'* In the mystery of the incarnation, God has committed himself to us forever. He has moved in with us, to be with us and to share our lot. And to the eyes of faith, he continues to live among us, in the scriptures, in the sacraments, in the Church, in our communities, in those we love. The incarnation is a mystery which has an effect on the way we live. The incarnation is quite simply God putting flesh on his love for humanity. God's love is not just talk, not just a noble ideal. In the person of Jesus, the love of God is made available for people to see, hear, touch. This privilege of being children of God brings a responsibility. God asks us to make his love a reality so that others may experience it. We are Christ's body on earth today. We are called to make the incarnation a reality. To make his love available so that people can experience it through us, here and now. God asks us to commit ourselves to a loving service of his people, just as Jesus did during his earthly ministry. He asks us to put flesh on his love, to be the body of Christ for others. *'No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.'* Draw near to the heart of Christ, lean on his heart in prayer and there learn the secrets of his love. Hear his heart beating for you, the great heart of Jesus, *'full of grace and truth'*, who is the splendour of the Father and the brightness of eternal life.

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1132.97**

**Our Lady's £265.54**

**Thank you.**