

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

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

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## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9<sup>th</sup> January 2022



### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Albert Herbert, RIP  
9.30am People of the Parish  
11.00am Evelyn Foy, RIP  
6.30pm Giuseppe Libertucci, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Thresia Jose, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am In Thanksgiving (Sloman)

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Mathew Philip, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Mary & Alan Wright, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Evelyn Prasanth

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Alex Dillon, RIP

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Liam Connolly

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

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will be resuming next Sunday 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 COMMUNION CLASS

The next preparation class for the children making their First Communion this year will be this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room.

### PARENTS MEETING

The parents of these children are asked to attend a meeting this Thursday in St Joseph's church at 7.15pm, please.

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Classes for Confirmation candidates will begin later this month. Time and date will appear in next week's newsletter. There will also be a parents' meeting.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Kahari, Ndoro

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Price

**NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of the Year**

**Readers:** Rota Week 1

**Children's Liturgy:** Lyn Bull

### 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. Prizes can be collected from the presbytery.

### CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Thanks to all who purchased cards and other items. A profit of £134.53 was made in aid of our parish project.

## **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). Donated items for the sale can be left at the presbytery or church.

## **FUNDRAISING MEETING**

There will be a meeting of the parish Fundraising Group this Friday at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

## **SPUC APPEAL**

There will be retiring collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children next Sunday after all Masses.

## **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.

## **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.

*'Being Christian is not just obeying orders but means being in Christ, thinking like him, acting like him, loving like him; it means letting him take possession of our life and change it, transform it, and free it from the darkness of evil and sin...*

*Let us show the joy of being children of God, the freedom that living in Christ gives us which is true freedom that saves us from the slavery of evil, of sin and of death.'*

Pope Francis

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION Luke 3:15-16. 21-22.**

It might seem strange that Jesus, who is God, should have sought baptism from John. If he is God and, therefore, sinless, why be baptised? Well there are two things to consider. Firstly, the baptism of John was a baptism of repentance and not like the baptism we receive. But that begs the question! What did Jesus have to repent of? This brings us to the second consideration. Jesus wanted to identify with sinful humanity in order to save it from sin. And so, by way of inaugurating this great work, he underwent a form of baptism. The word baptism means enlightenment. Jesus was enlightened as to what his mission was. We hear how the Holy Spirit descended upon him and a voice from heaven declared, *"You are my Son, the Beloved. My favour rests on you."* Jesus is the light that enlightens all men and women. If we come to him we will no longer walk in the darkness of sin and unbelief but will have the light of life for our guide as we make our way in this world to the world of heaven. And this journey to that world begins when we are baptised, enlightened by Christ. We are made his and God's favour rests on us. We do not always feel that, living as we do in a world that in many ways has lost that sense of the divine, the spiritual. Hence the need to nourish our lives of faith through prayer and the sacramental life of the Church. Only then will it become a source of profound joy and great strength that will carry us through all the uncertainties and complexities of life here to the life that awaits us beyond the horizon of this world. The journey can be long and hard, and so we need to keep our eyes on Jesus, to not lose sight of him, and take heart, for he is near, he is close. It is his voice we must strain to listen to above all the other upraised voices claiming our attention. It is his life we must live amidst the many lifestyles we are invited to follow. All these other voices and lifestyles are shallow compared to the gift of God. Our baptism enters us upon a journey, a great adventure, discovering the gift of God. And that joy of discovery will take us into eternity where the full delight of knowing and loving God will only have begun. *'You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter. My favour rests on you.'*

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £861.98**

**Our Lady's £101.00**

**Thank you.**