

# 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

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**SECOND SUNDAY  
OF THE YEAR**  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2022



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy resumes today 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.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes begin on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 2.30pm to 4.00pm in the Guild Room. Access from Church Street. All candidates must attend. The sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop David in St Joseph's on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.00pm.

## PARENTS' MEETING

The parents of these Confirmation candidates are asked to attend a meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm in St Joseph's church.

## Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Fr Pius Duke
	9.30am	Zuzana Konkolova, RIP
	11.00am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Alex Dillon, RIP
Monday	<i>St Anthony</i>	
	10.45am	Terezija Dernulc, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Macario & Natividad Santos
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Liubov Nikifozova, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	James Foy, RIP
Friday	<i>St Agnes</i>	
	10.45am	Tama Conchinati Martinez
Saturday	<i>St Vincent</i>	
	10.45am	Antony Kozlowski, RIP

## Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	John Connolly, RIP
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**Confessions: Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)  
St Joseph's:**

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Daniels

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Price

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

**Readers:** Rota Week 2

**Children's Liturgy:** Lyn Bull

## 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.

## SURPLUS GIFT SALE

There will be a Surplus Gift Sale in aid of our parish project next 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.

## **SPUC APPEAL**

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

## **CRIB OFFERING**

Money placed in the Crib over Christmas amounted to £376.92 in aid of our parish project. Thanks to all who contributed.

## **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**

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.

## **PARISH FORUM**

The next meeting of the Parish Forum will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in the Guild Room. Please make every effort to attend. We shall be discussing the Synodal Process initiated by Pope Francis, alongside parish matters.

## **THE GOD WHO SPEAKS**

A series of online Zoom sessions is being offered by the Liturgical Formation Team exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the scriptures that we hear proclaimed at Mass. The dates are Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, all beginning at 7.30pm. To register, please email [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1). Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the Zoom sessions.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION John 2:1-11**

The joke goes that the reason why they ran out of wine at the wedding feast of Cana was that the newly married couple made the mistake of inviting the apostles along! Well, the truth is that wedding celebrations at the time of Jesus in Israel were more than just a day's event; they would last possibly a week and the whole village would turn out. To run out of wine was a miscalculation and an embarrassment to the couple and their families. To save the day, Our Lord's mother brought it to his attention, hoping and indeed knowing that he could do something about it. But Jesus seems reluctant at first and Mary simply says to the servants, "*Do whatever he tells you.*" Jesus gives in, (how could you refuse your mum!), and performs the first of his many miracles. Two things stand out in this story, apart from the wondrous miracle itself. The power of Our Lady's intercession and her exhortation to do whatever he tells you. Mary has an important role in the economy of salvation which did not end with the birth of her special child. She was given to us as our spiritual mother as she stood by her dying Son: '*Woman, behold your son; son behold your mother.*' She exercises a motherly solicitude towards us, her children, drawing us closer to her Son, Jesus, interceding for us before him. And she is the perfect example of obedience to God's will and exhorts us to be the same: '*Do whatever he tells you.*' Discerning and doing his will is always for our good and our happiness, even though it can be difficult and challenging at times, especially in the whole area of personal morality. So, like the couple at Cana, we need to invite Jesus into our lives to help us as we struggle to live as we should and discern his will for us. We do this by way of prayer, in his word and in the circumstances of our lives and seeking, too, the powerful intercession of Our Lady. Then Christ can work miracles for us; he can change the water of our lives into the rich wine of his life. In the words of Pope Benedict: "*Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open wide the doors to Christ and you will find true life.*" Life with Jesus is a celebration, a feast which will never end.

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1055.68**

**Our Lady's £130.52**

**Thank you.**