

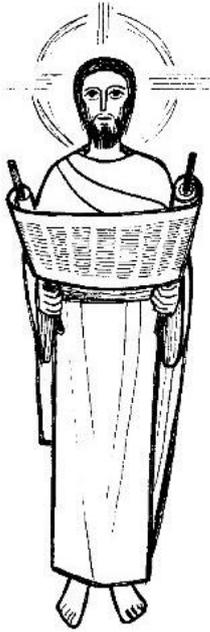
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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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**THIRD SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
23rd January 2022



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Betty Ashton, RIP

9.30am Gus Orr, RIP

11.00am Alan Fleming, RIP

6.30pm Nicky Kinsella, RIP

Monday

St Francis de Sales

10.45am Gabriella Triay & Family

Tuesday

Conversion of St Paul

10.45am Shini Jacob

Wednesday

SS Timothy & Titus

10.45am Mario Garcia, RIP

Thursday

Feria

10.45am Dariusz, RIP

Friday

St Thomas Aquinas

10.45am Lindsey Payanneeandee, RIP

Saturday

Votive Mass of Our Lady

10.45am Elsie Petts, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mary Armitage

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

Surplus Gift Sale today in the Guild Room after all Masses in aid of our parish project and in the church porch of Our Lady's.

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.

PARISH FORUM

The next meeting of the Parish Forum is this Friday 28th 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Bahoum, Thomas, Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Raoul & Jo 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.

LEPRA APPEAL

There will be an appeal next Sunday at all Masses for the work of the charity Lepra, which seeks to alleviate the effects of Leprosy in different parts of the world. There will be a retiring collection for this purpose.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes begin on Saturday 5th 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 27th June 2022 at 7.00pm.

PARENTS MEETING

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

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2022

The Diocesan Directory for this year is now available for sale at the back of the church at £3.50 per copy. Please place money in the wall-box marked Books.

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: Wednesday 23rd February, Wednesday 6th April and Wednesday 20th April all beginning at 7.30pm. To register, please email 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.

'Desire only God, and your heart will be satisfied.'

St Augustine of Hippo

GOSPEL REFLECTION Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Christians are the inheritors of the tradition that the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in Christ. Today we can rejoice in the proclamation of Jesus in his hometown of Nazareth. In so doing we give our assent to some basic beliefs: that Jesus is the promised Messiah; that he brings good news to the poor; that he proclaims liberty and healing, and that he is the messenger of the Father. In this living tradition we find our strength and our joy. The words of the prophet Nehemiah in the first reading are spoken to us, "*Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your strength.*" That sense of joy and hope which should mark our lives of faith can be easily eroded if we are not careful. We worry and fret about so many things and we take our eyes off Jesus. We are told in the gospel that all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. The devil loves to distract us from Jesus by so many different and clever ways: moral confusion, materialism, obsessions, worry. We keep our eyes on the Lord who alone can fulfil our desires and save us from excessive worry, knowing that we are in his protective care. But do we believe that? Is the joy of the Lord our strength? We need to re-focus our attention on Jesus, otherwise we are lost and remain in a kind of fog, devoid of joy and hope. We can't live like that as Christian believers; it's a contradiction! Listen again to the words of the Lord: "*The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.*" Jesus stands before us as he stood before those in the synagogue that day, offering us this good news of liberty and restoring to us our inheritance as God's children. It would be foolish not to approach him, indeed run to him, the giver of life, and receive his promises. To remain at a distance, wrapped in doubt and the cares that burden us only adds to that sense of sadness, fear and isolation. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus; don't lose sight of him as we make our way in this world. Returning to him in prayer each day allows him to heal our hearts and restore joy and peace. He waits for us, he waits to share his life, his joy and his love.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**Offertory
SPUC**

**St Joseph's £1055.68
St Joseph's £350.00**

**Our Lady's £322.50
Our Lady's £39.85**

Thank you