

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

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

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**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF THE YEAR**  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2022



## CANDLEMAS

This Wednesday we celebrate the feast of The Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas, recalling the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple by his parents as the traditional offering of the first-born to God. At the beginning of Mass candles will be lit and blessed, symbolising Christ, the light of the world. He sheds his light on us, guiding us on our way through faith in him.

## BLESSING OF THROATS

The traditional blessing of throats this Thursday after Mass, the feast of St Blaise.

## 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.

## Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish  
9.30am Dilys Willis, RIP  
11.00am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP  
6.30pm Ada Rungay, RIP

## Monday *St John Bosco*

10.45am Franc Rozman, RIP

## Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Private intention

## Wednesday *Presentation of the Lord*

10.45am John Podesta, RIP

## Thursday *St Blaise*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

## Friday *Feria*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

## Saturday *St Agatha*

10.45am Rosalind Richardson, RIP

## Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Alex Dillon, RIP

## Confessions – St Joseph's:

**Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** My lips will tell of your help.

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Kahari, Ndoro

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Bino

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

**Readers:** Rota Week 4

**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 a short appeal today at all Masses for the work of the charity Lepira, which seeks to alleviate the effects of Leprosy in different parts of the world. There will be a retiring collection for this purpose.

## FATIMA DEVOTIONS

This Saturday after the 10.45am Mass, praying for peace.

## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

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

## **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.

## **CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

Meets every first and third Wednesday of the month, beginning this Wednesday, at 7.30pm in the Reconciliation Chapel in St Joseph's church. All are welcome.

## **EVC UGANDA PRAYER GROUP**

Meets every first and third Tuesday of the month at 8pm at Chapel Corner, 1 Church Road, Willington, MK44 3QD. All welcome.

## **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 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 sessions.

## **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.

## **QUIET IN CHURCH**

We need to reduce the noise level in church in order that it may be a place of prayerful recollection before Mass and quiet thanksgiving after Mass. Please allow for this so that people, who wish, may spend some quiet time in prayer. Thank you.

## **MOBILE PHONES**

To aid this, please also ensure that your mobile phone is switched off before you enter the church.

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION Luke 4:21-30**

This gospel passage conflates three visits to the synagogue in Jesus' home-town of Nazareth. Initial approval turns to rejection when they began to hear of his preaching and miracles elsewhere. *"Who does he think he is? We know him; he's just the carpenter's son!"* Familiarity breeds contempt! We are told at another time in the gospels that he could do no mighty works there because of their lack of faith. It's a sad turn of events. As Jesus himself says here, *"..no prophet is ever accepted in his own country."* Jesus was identifying himself as the anointed of God, the long awaited Messiah, to bring salvation to his people and not just his chosen people but the whole world and all peoples. There was to be no exclusivity in the plan of salvation. All men and women, all nationalities, are invited to the kingdom of God. But, as always, we are free to accept or reject this offer. To accept, we must strive to live lives that are pleasing to God, despite our struggles to do so and our failures. If we continue to strive, to rely on his grace and mercy, we will safely arrive and enjoy forever his promises. Accepting Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises to us, accepting him as our saviour, is the heart of the gospel. Once we do that then he can act and bring us safely home. The Nazarenes and the religious authorities at the time wanted to kill him. In the end they did but they could not kill his good news; the liberating power of God in Christ to set us free from slavery to sin and the power of death. *"I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly."* What a promise! We all want life and happiness. They are to be found in him, in accepting him as Lord and Saviour. This good news will never die. It is an eternal and unbreakable covenant, fulfilled in the hearts of all who believe.

## **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1243.27**

**Our Lady's £192.20**

**Thank you**