

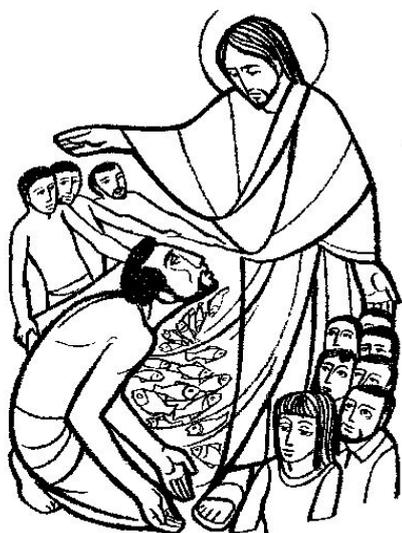
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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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**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
6th February 2022



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Kathleen Canavan
9.30am People of the Parish
11.00am Evelyn Foy, RIP
6.30pm Michael Adzic, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Rosalind Richardson, RIP

Tuesday *St Josephine Bakhita*

10.45am Joseph Kurisunkal

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Requiem: Antoni Kozlowski

Thursday *St Scholastica*

10.45am In Thanksgiving (Coles)

Friday *Our Lady of Lourdes*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Chinnamma Joseph

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Celine D'Souza, RIP

LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

Since the lifting of Covid restrictions by the Government, the advice from the Bishop's Conference is that face coverings are now optional when attending Mass. The sign of peace has been restored. It need not be a handshake, if people are uncomfortable with that, but any other sign will suffice, e.g. a bow. We can now bless ourselves with holy water as we enter the church. The reception of Holy Communion remains under one kind for the present.

PARISH QUIZ

Our next fundraising event for our parish project is a Parish Quiz on Friday 18th February at 7.30pm in the Guild Room. Tickets on sale next Sunday after the Masses at £3.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy has resumed at the 9.30am Mass in St Joseph's for those of school age. Parents, please pick up a registration form from the sacristy.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Daniels

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Bimla Mathew

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

Thank you for your generous response to the Lepra Appeal last Sunday, which raised £729.31 from St Joseph's and £129 from Our Lady's.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

This is on-going at the moment in Our Lady's church.

TEA & TALK

You are warmly invited to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with fellow parishioners on Monday 14th February in Our Lady's Meeting Room, Kempston, at 2.30pm.

FIRST AID COURSE

A First Aid Course (Emergency First Aid at Work) will be held on Saturday 19th February in the Guild Room (access Church Street), from 9am to 4pm. There will be no charge but a contribution towards costs will be welcome. Please contact Chris Field on 07840 878455 to book a place. A short session on Basic Life Support and how to use a defibrillator lasting about 40 mins will be held after each Mass on Sunday 27th February. Just turn up. No charge but a small donation towards our parish project would be 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 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 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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joe Grady, Philippa Hill, Bridget McLoone, Peter Birkett, Antoni Kozlowski, Terry Mullins and Mary Roche.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Luke 5:1-11

This miraculous catch of fish wrought by Jesus completely over-awed those fishermen, so much so that Peter begged Jesus to leave him for he was a sinful man! This same sense of the awe-filled presence of God touched Isaiah in the first reading and St Paul in the second. They all had a personal experience of God which convinced them of their unworthiness and sinfulness. But, even so, the Lord called these men and others to follow him because he had a great work for them to do despite their weaknesses and sinfulness. Theirs was the privilege of sharing in the work of God for the salvation of the world. God, you see, relies on human partners to bring about his purpose and plan. And some part of that plan depends on our yes to him, our free cooperation with his grace. We might feel not up to the task, given our limitations and weaknesses. This is how I felt when first called to be a priest. But if I dwelt on that, then I would not be here today. I still carry my weaknesses and limitations but I remind myself that God is the senior partner in all this and so I continue to serve with that knowledge and consolation, especially when things go wrong at times and I'm reminded that I am only an earthenware vessel carrying this treasure of the priesthood. We are all human and subject to human failings, but that should not prevent us from answering the call of God to live faithfully the gift of our baptism and to fan into a flame that gift by our closeness to the Lord in prayer and the sacramental life of the Church. Then all things will be possible in him who gives us his strength. So when we feel discouraged and dispirited at times due to weakness or sin in our lives, just call out in prayer to the one who understands the clay we are made of and he will come to us with his protection and strength to continue in the way of faith and service. The devil is the great discourager, who wants to rob us of our hope. If Isaiah and Peter and Paul allowed their sense of unworthiness to stymie them, they would not be the great saints we know today. You see, it's all God's work. All we have to do is say our yes to him, to show willing and he will do the rest. It is an act of faith that allows the Lord to act in us and bring about the great plans he has for us, plans for our ultimate happiness.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £988.77

Our Lady's £314.40

Thank you