

# 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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**SEVENTH SUNDAY  
OF THE YEAR**  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2022



## **FATHER PIUS**

It is with sadness that we will have to say farewell to Fr Pius at the end of this month. He has been with us one year and will now be taking up a new appointment outside our diocese. We wish him well and thank him for his ministry with us. He also thanks you for the warm welcome he received and the support of your prayers at this time. There is no provision for an assistant priest at present.

## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

The next preparation class for the children making their First Holy Communion is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

The next preparation class for the candidates for Confirmation is also this Saturday at 2.30pm in the Guild Room. Full attendance, please.

## **Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford**

Sunday	8.15am	Patricia Byrne, RIP
	9.30am	Heidi Billingham
	11.00am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	James Foy, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Anthoni Kozlowski, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Chair of St Peter</i>	
	10.45am	Tony & Sans Smith
Wednesday	<i>St Polycarp</i>	
	10.45am	V.T. Mathai, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Joseph Grady
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Barbara Moran, RIP
Saturday	<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>	
	10.45am	Bro. Joseph Kurisunkal

## **Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston**

Saturday	6.00pm	Cyril Brown, RIP
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## **Confessions – St Joseph's:**

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

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**The Lord is compassion and love.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** Kahari, Ngoro

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Redmond

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

**Readers:** Rota Week 3

**Children's Liturgy:** Edward & Geraldine Byrne

## **EASING OF RESTRICTIONS**

Since the easing of Covid restrictions by the Government, the advice from the Bishops' 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 and leave the church. The reception of Holy Communion remains under one kind for the present, i.e. the host only.

## **FIRST AID SESSION**

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 27<sup>th</sup> February in the Guild Room of St Joseph's and on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February in the Meeting Room in Our Lady's, Kempston. Just turn up. No charge, but a small donation towards our parish project would be welcome.

## **BEDFORD FOODBANK**

The following items are needed for the Bedford Foodbank: Long life sponge pudding, Long-life fruit juice, 100g jars of coffee, Jars of curry sauce, Large tins of potatoes, Cup-a-Soup, Tinned meat in sauce (curry/chilli), Tinned baked beans, Shampoo, Multi-purpose spray, Washing-up liquid. These items can be placed in the green bin at the back of St Joseph's church and the cardboard box in Our Lady's church porch.

## **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.

## **REQUIESCANT IN PACE**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joe Grady, Filippa Hill and Mary Roche. Filippa's funeral is this Tuesday at 10.30am in Our Lady's.

## **HEALING SERVICE**

There will be a short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass next Sunday.

*'If your heart is gentle, your judgement will be gentle; if it is charitable, your judgement will be so too.'*  
St Francis de Sales

## **REFLECTION**

*'Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high like a diamond in the sky!'* We are all familiar with this little rhyme evoking the wonder of childhood lost a long time ago for many, I suspect. A pity! We need to recapture it somehow and begin to see the world and our lives in a new and transcendent way. After all, we are transcendent beings made in the image and likeness of God. But time and the effects of life can and do erode that sense of wonder and so we plod along, eyes cast down, pre-occupied with the cares of life. Seldom do we look up and gaze in wonder at the beauty of creation and the wonder of our lives as God's beloved children. Life, then, becomes a drudge and just something to get through each day. We live in a kind of buffer zone where we maintain a distance from the great mystery of life, its beauty and wonder. What we need to do is to punch a hole in our buffer zone and let the light in and recover the beautiful, the transcendent, refreshing our lives as we reach out to the God who made us, made us for precisely this. How do we punch that hole? Prayer! Praying lets the light in, lets God in with his healing touch, his wondrous beauty, his love and caressing peace. This takes time and a certain daily discipline. A decision each day to be with him in that moment of intimacy wherein we touch the face of God and allow him to touch the depths of our humanity and there create peace. Gradually, then, a sense of wonder will return because we will begin to see the world and our lives through a new prism, the prism of a contemplative heart that sees beyond the immediate to the transcendent mystery of things and their inner beauty. This is the gift and the fruit of prayer. A smile will return to our lips and a deep joy that is not of this world, but rather the gift of God. Yes, we will still experience our sad and trying times, such is the world we inhabit, but not devoid of hope and even joy amidst our troubles. The practise of seeing things and people with the inner eye of a lively faith will restore that lost sense of wonder which only those who are child-like can enjoy. Prayer is the key to this world of wonder wherein we begin to see with the playful eyes of God who is full of surprises for us to marvel at, to enjoy and become lost in wonder.

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1108.14**

**Our Lady's £335.55**

**Thank you**