

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

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

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**EIGHTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
27th February 2022



FATHER PIUS

We say farewell to Fr Pius this weekend as he takes up a new appointment. We wish him well and thank him for his ministry with us. We accompany him with our prayers.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We begin the holy season of Lent this Wednesday with the blessing and distribution of ashes at the Masses. Lent affords us the opportunity once again to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to seek reconciliation in the sacrament of Confession. This season reminds us of the constant need to renew and nourish our spiritual lives through prayer, self-denial and works of charity in a more intense way. Spiritual spring-cleaning! Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (reduced food) and abstinence (no meat). Mass times: St Joseph's 10.45am & 7.30pm. Our Lady's: 6.00pm.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Danuta Korzonek, RIP
	9.30am	Jose Castro-Gonzalez, RIP
	11.00am	Thresia Antony
	6.30pm	Declan & Mary Carroll, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Mary Roche
Tuesday	<i>St David</i>	
	10.45am	Marie Rose, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
	10.45am	Sue Taylor, RIP
	7.30pm	Bryan Walker, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Melanie Lewis
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Mary Wright, RIP
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Maria & Tedor Bazylewicz, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Celine D'Souza, RIP
Wednesday	6.00pm	Lore Ressler, RIP

**Confessions – St Joseph's:
Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

It is good to give thanks, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Lent

Readers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Raoul & Jo Bull

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be every Sunday during Lent beginning next Sunday at 4.00pm in St Joseph's and Our Lady's. In this prayerful devotion we meditate on the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the much needed gift of peace in our tense world at the moment.

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 today in the Guild Room of St Joseph's and 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.

HEALING SERVICE

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

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 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.

LENT TALKS

United Lent Services at Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street on Wednesdays during Lent from 9th March to 6th April, 1.10pm-1.50pm. Five services in Lent celebrating songs of our faith. See poster.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Bryan Walker and Mary Roche. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

'Oh dear! It's Lent again!' Could this be the reaction of some of us as we face the rigors of this holy season once more, beginning this Ash Wednesday? As with Christmas, it seems to come round every three months! Time rushes by! This reaction to Lent probably stems from the discipline demanded of us during this time when we are encouraged to give something up or perhaps in trying to perform some extra spiritual exercises, like daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, extra prayers e.g. the Rosary. Whatever it may be, we are challenged to put some distance between ourselves and our self-indulgence. We are encouraged to give more thought to our spiritual needs and hunger and, at the same time, remembering those who go hungry every day for the basics of life. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the traditional means of doing this; well tried and tested. Actually, we get off lightly compared to what was demanded by the Church from our forebears. We are called to the discipline of Lent for good reason. We make room for God by putting aside for a time those things that can push him out. If we are filled with the material comforts of life then we can no longer realise our need and deep hunger for God. Giving up things clears space for God and the spiritual. We give him priority over our desires and wants; we put him in first place. Very often, the distance we place between ourselves and our self-indulgence is the measure of our nearness to God. The word Lent is Anglo-Saxon for spring-time. We are moving into spring, which is a time of growth, and so the Church calls us to grow in faith through prayer, penance, and repentance of our sins and works of charity. In this way we prepare for the high summer of Christ's resurrection. Lent, then, is a time of decision; an opportunity to face ourselves and call upon God's strength in prayer and especially in the sacrament of Reconciliation. By resisting sin and spiritual lethargy through prayer, fasting and almsgiving and confessing our sins we make Lent a growing time and understand this season in a more positive light; an opportunity to advance in the spiritual life, the life of grace. We will grow in our understanding of the gospel message which is eternal life and experience ever more deeply the joy of the risen Lord. Happy Lent!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1578.58

Our Lady's £132.12

Thank you