

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr John Conroy MHM

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

7th August 2022



FATHER JOHN

Father John has decided to retire from active ministry because of health reasons and he will be leaving us on Tuesday 23rd August. We are grateful for the few months he was able to spend with us, taking full part in parish life, and wish him well in his retirement. Bishop David has promised us a replacement. (Watch this space!)

VACANCY

The diocese is currently recruiting for a Director of Mission to develop and manage the vision, strategic direction and day to day operations of Mission Northampton. The role will be for 32 hours per week and working pattern is to be negotiated. Full information for the position and an application form can be found:

www.northamptondiocese.org/jobs or email:

hradmin@northamptondiocese.com

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Dennis Gilbert, RIP
11.00am John Robinson, RIP
6.30pm Maureen Maza, RIP

Monday *St Dominic*

10.45am Joan Martin, RIP

Tuesday *St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*

10.45am Anne Simmonds, RIP

Wednesday *St Lawrence*

10.45am Ana Anchong, RIP

Thursday *St Clare*

10.45am Merin Bino

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Marcia Egan, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am May Fee, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Rosemary Mitchell

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: Ndoró, Kahari

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Assumption of Our Lady

Readers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: None until September

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's parish are now available for collection at the back of the church. If you wish to start using envelopes, please see Canon Seamus.

GIFT AID

If you are a tax payer, please consider Gift Aiding your weekly donation to the parish as a simple and painless way of increasing our revenue, especially as prices are rising so rapidly. Gift Aid forms can be collected from the sacristy or presbytery.

ROE V WADE

The overturning of Roe v Wade, ending 50 years of a constitutional 'right' to abortion in USA, is a monumental step forward which shows the world that a civilised alternative to abortion is possible and will doubtless save millions of lives. We all have a vital role to play in building a true culture of life, in which every life is respected and where no woman feels that abortion is her only choice. The Society for the Protection Unborn Children has produced a leaflet detailing this decision. Please take one from the back of the church. To find out more, please go to www.spuc.org.uk/welcome.

CONFIRMATION SPONSORED WALK

Thanks to our walkers and those who sponsored them in aid of our parish project which raised £260.

YOUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE

There will be a Youth Ministry Conference at the St Thomas Centre, Northampton Cathedral on Saturday 8th October, 10.30am – 4.00pm, for all those working with young people in the Church; youth ministers, catechists, chaplains, teachers and volunteers. The theme of the Conference is, Called to Love, exploring the Church's teaching on Sexuality and Identity. Cost of the day is £10. More information about the Conference and the booking form can be found on the website: www.nymo.org/conference.

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The Universe Catholic Weekly has launched a new online newspaper replacing the paper copy. You can order your digital 4-week Free trial supply by calling Michelle on 07436617650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk.

40 PENCE FOR 40 DAYS

The total raised for the Bedford Foodbank from this Lenten challenge was £245. Thanks to all who participated.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Dick Gardner and Anne Simmonds. May they rest in the peace of the Lord. Dick's funeral Mass is 24th August at 10.45am in St Joseph's church.

REFLECTION

'Whatever I am, I am not myself.' (G K Chesterton). This is a reference to the Fall. God created man good. Man was made for love. But if love is to be genuine, it must be free. Man could love God freely or reject him freely; it was his choice. And man rejected God, preferring to be the master of his own destiny instead of living under God's sovereignty. This is the first sin, the Original Sin, when man chose self as against God. And so he introduced disorder into the world. He freely chose a state of separation from God and this is what we call fallen human nature. Apart from the love of God, man also lost the gifts of immortality and moral integrity, i.e. man found himself in rebellion against himself and against other human beings. Having rejected the greatest good, it was easy to reject the lesser ones: to be at enmity with others, to choose war, injustice, oppression and a host of other evils. *'Without God, everything is allowed.'* (Dostoevsky). We, who are born of human stock, have inherited this fallen state. Gloomy picture! But we are redeemable. We can be saved. God has, in Jesus Christ, held out his hand to us. He has entered into our dysfunction to save us from ourselves through his redeeming death and resurrection. He is the remedy for our malady. Only the choice is still ours. His hand reaches out to us and it isn't a hand of admonition, a wagging finger. It is a hand of welcome, a hand of healing, a hand of absolution. He wants to raise us up to our original dignity as sons and daughters of God. He wants to lift the burden of sin and guilt so that we may experience the glorious liberty of the children of God. We are made for greatness! We must not squander our inheritance, as did our first parents. In Jesus we have the chance of a fresh start, walking again in harmony with God and with one another. Yes, we still live very much in a fallen world and we suffer its effects, but we now see a way out of the mess and so, as we make our way in this world, we focus on Christ who is the Way the Truth and the Life. Don't let go of his guiding and supporting hand. Cling to him; hold him fast. He is our only hope and saviour. The pull of sin will become less and less and we shall experience the liberty of God's children who know the secret of life, our purpose and destiny. We shall be gods with God!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1317.65

Our Lady's £540.80

Thank you