

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

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

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ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

14th August 2022



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

We celebrate today the great feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, body and soul into heaven. From there she continues her motherly role of praying for us and caring for us her children. Let us resolve to grow in faith and holiness in obedience to God, like Mary, and so join her one day in the glory of our true home in heaven. *'Mary, assumed into heaven, pray for us who have recourse to thee.'*

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:

hadmin@northamptondiocese.com

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Pauline & Patrick Devaney, RIP
9.30am Rosalind Richardson, RIP
11.00am In Thanksgiving (Preeti Roberts)
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday *Feria*

10.45am May McKenna, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am John Voogd, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Joseph Kurisunkal, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Sunanda Kalwar

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Saturday *St Bernard*

10.45am James Foy, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm John Coffey, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

On your right stands the queen in garments of gold.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-First Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 4

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.

WEDDING

Please hold in prayer Ramon Chong-Monserrate and Simona Verdura who will be exchanging their marriage vows this Saturday in St Joseph's church.

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.

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 07436 617650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk.

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

Some years ago I had the privilege of celebrating Mass on the feast of the Assumption in Ephesus, Turkey, the traditional site of Our Lady's assumption into heaven. Tradition has it that she lived there with the apostle St John to whom Jesus gave her into his care. Many pilgrims visit this holy place, including Muslims, who have a strong devotion to Mary. Today's feast is the culmination of a life totally turned to God in the service of his will. Mary's 'yes' to God changed the future of the world for time and eternity. Her 'yes' allowed God to enter into our human history to redeem us and offer us the free gift of eternal salvation. Having so completely conformed herself to the will of God, it was only fitting that she, who by grace was sinless, should inherit the promised gift of eternal life body and soul in the kingdom of heaven. As she was preserved from all sin, she was preserved from the corruption of the grave and now continues her divine motherhood as our Mother who constantly intercedes for us and watches over us with maternal solicitude. This feast also tells us about our ultimate destiny when we too shall inherit the joy of heaven, body and soul, for that is what we are as human beings. Therefore it is the whole person that will enjoy this gift of life and not just a disembodied spirit. The grace of this feast is to make us more keenly aware that here we live in a world of shadows that the great realities lie ahead; we live in a state of longing for our native land, the homeland of heaven. Today's feast directs our gaze, our minds, to higher things, to the complete union with God which Mary now enjoys. It tells us where we are going and the purpose of our time in this passing world. Keeping our attention directed to beyond our more immediate needs and desires will prevent us from becoming lost and confused. We ask Our Lady to guide us, to help us along the way. May our faith in her assumption give us renewed hope that in God's heavenly kingdom, united with our Blessed Lady, we may enjoy the perfection of love and the fullness of life forever.

'Today earth has sent a priceless gift to heaven. Blessed indeed is Mary, blessed in many ways, both in receiving the Saviour and in being received by the Saviour.'
St Bernard of Clairvaux

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1837.70

Our Lady's £199.20

Thank you