

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

**TWENTY SECOND
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
28th August 2022



FATHER JOHN

Fr John wishes to express his gratitude for your good wishes and promise of prayers as he enters his retirement.

FIRST COMMUNION 2023

Enrolment forms for First Communion classes, beginning in the autumn, are now available from the sacristy.

PARISH BBQ

There will be a Parish BBQ on Saturday 3rd September at 2.30pm in the grounds of Our Lady's Church, Kempston, in aid of our parish project. Tickets on sale today at £5 adults and £3 children. Bring your own drink. Please place your name on the blue sheet at the back of the church if you wish to attend.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Geraldine & Emily Devaney
	9.30am	Emilio Valerio, RIP
	11.00am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Dick Gardner, RIP
Monday	<i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	
	10.45am	Andrew McGowan, RIP
Tuesday	<i>SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward</i>	
	10.45am	Kathleen Elliot & Family
Wednesday	<i>St Aidan & the Saints of Lindisfarne</i>	
	10.45am	Baby Frank Dunne, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Maggie Sloman
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Saturday	<i>Pope St Gregory the Great</i>	
	10.45am	Yvonne, Graham, Raymond, Sandy Wareham

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Celine D'Souza, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: Nodoro, Kahari

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Third Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None until September

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.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the much needed gift of peace.

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short Eucharistic healing service after the 6.30pm Mass today. We pray for ourselves and those who need healing.

CHURCH KNEELERS

As you may have noticed, the kneelers in St Joseph's church are being re-upholstered. To preserve their quality, please avoid placing your feet on them. Knees only! Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING

We are very much in need of more church cleaners to go on the rota in St Joseph's. Cleaning usually takes place after the 10.45am Mass on a Friday but this can be adjusted. Keeping the church clean is vital but we need volunteers to assist with this. Please consider this appeal and let me know if you can offer your time. **(No offers yet!)**

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.

CAFOD

All are invited to hear about CAFOD's work, how we are responding to the world food crisis with focus on East Africa. Coffee/tea from 10am for 10.30am start until 1.00pm followed by a shared lunch. Sat 17th Sept at St Augustine's Church, 1 Langcliffe Drive, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PL. Sat 24th Sept at St Teresa's Hall, 40 Warwick Road, Beaconsfield, HP9 2PL.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Simmonds. May she rest in the peace of the Lord. Anne's funeral Mass will be at Holy Cross Church, Goldington Road on Tuesday 13th September at 12.30pm. Her remains will be brought into the church on Monday 12th September at 5pm.

REFLECTION

'O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water,' (Psalm 62). These words of the psalmist express the soul's longing for God. At heart, this is the longing of every person because we were made for God and our hearts will not rest until they rest in him, (St Augustine). We long for fulfilment and happiness but many look for these things in the wrong place and are disappointed. As Christians, we know where our heart's desire is but we are often drawn in different directions which lead us away from God. Prayer can draw us back. To pray is to allow God's grace to rain on us, on our parched, weary souls. We will begin to drink from the fountain that will never run dry and will more than satisfy our soul's thirst for happiness and fulfilment. We observe from nature what happens when there is a lack of rainwater, as is the case at the moment. The earth dries and cracks, crops fail to ripen, wildlife suffers and so on. Nothing can survive long without water. And we cannot survive long, spiritually, without grace, without God's life in us. It is not that God withholds his grace. It is freely available, but we have to ask for it, we have to want it, even pine for it. We have to pray and it will be freely poured into us, reviving our souls. The constant drizzle of God's grace is vital if we are to flourish and experience the joy of his presence *'giving suck to our soul's infancy,'* (St Augustine). So don't stay away from that fount that alone can satisfy us and bring us to life. Be careful not to allow anything or anyone dilute that longing for God which God himself has placed in us. *"Let anyone who is thirsty, come to me,"* says Jesus. We come to him in a most special way in the Mass, where he is truly present and offers us the water of the Eucharist to replenish our strength and bear fruit as his disciples. That other great source of strength and healing, Confession, is offered as a remedy for our sins and a healing balm. Why die of thirst when we have all these means to our survival and flourishing? Then with the psalmist we can say, *'My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.'*

'Prayer is to our soul what rain is to the soil.'

St John Vianney

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1164.93

Our Lady's £143.25

Thank you