

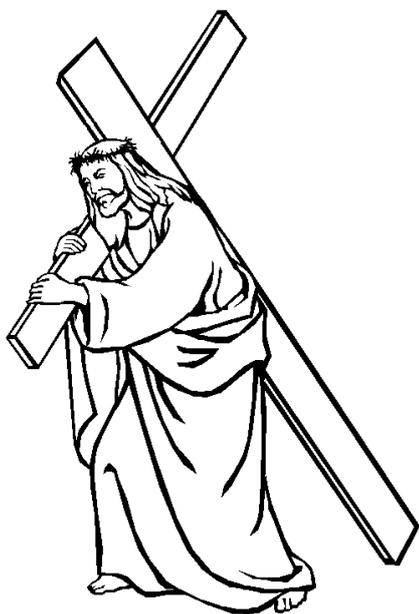
# St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan

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

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**TWENTY THIRD  
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2022



## FIRST COMMUNION 2023

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

## KNEELERS

A big thank you to Matt Caldwell, one of our parishioners, and his team, who have done a fine job in re-upholstering the kneelers in St Joseph's church. To preserve their quality, please avoid placing your feet on them. Difficult, I know, but try! Knees only. Thank you.

## INTERNATIONAL MEAL

As part of our on-going fundraising efforts for our parish project, we are holding an International Meal on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Italian Church Hall, Woburn Road. Tickets at £5 per person on sale next Sunday after all Masses.

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

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish  
9.30am Paddy Moran, RIP & Family  
11.00am May Fee, RIP  
6.30pm Varghese & Suja

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Sr. Maria Antonitta, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Evelyn Foy, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Thursday *Nativity of Our Lady*

10.45am Annamma Joseph, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Noble & Jincy

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Thanksgiving (A. Reddy)

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

Saturday 6.00pm Maria Flor Rose, RIP

## **Confessions – St Joseph's:**

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** 11.30am – 7.00pm

**CLEANING:** Daniels, Okonkwo

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Price

**NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year**

**Readers:** Rota Week 3

**Children's Liturgy:** Later this month

## **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.

## **PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL**

There will be an opportunity to donate to the Pakistan Floods Appeal next Sunday with a retiring collection. We have seen how devastating the floods are in large parts of the country. Please donate as you are able to this appeal by CAFOD and other aid agencies. Thank you.

## **ROSARY LINK FOR VOCATIONS**

This Thursday we are invited to Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary in SS Philip & James Church, Brickhill, at 10.15am, followed by refreshments in the form of a brunch. Please inform Maria Quinlan on 353116 if you wish to attend the brunch.

## **CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

The Charismatic Prayer group will meet this Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Reconciliation Chapel. All 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](http://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 17 Sept St Augustine's Church, 1 Langcliffe Drive, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PL. Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 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 13<sup>th</sup> September at 12.30pm. Her remains will be brought into the church on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm. No flowers on request, please. Masses appreciated.

*'What God cares about most is that we are His friends.'*

Pope Francis

## **REFLECTION**

The existence of suffering in the world has puzzled and agonised many minds, believers and non-believers alike. It runs like a dark thread through the colourful tapestry of life and men tend to blame the Master artist for weaving the thread into the pattern. Some even say that the existence of suffering is a proof that God does not exist. But it is God alone who can give meaning to suffering. Do away with him and what is one to say to the incurably sick, those burdened with the years, the disabled, the bereaved. What can one say, except, *"You've had it, I'm afraid...you are unfortunate units in a blind evolutionary movement!"* Cruel! To remove God from the picture in this way does not reduce the pain, it simply removes hope. For hope is precisely what the Christian answer gives. There is no complete solution to the problem of suffering but if we exclude God then we are tortured by blind forces which know nothing of us, care nothing for us and must ultimately have the last word. But if a person knows he is in the hands of a being supremely intelligent, supremely loving, he may not understand why he suffers but he knows that he can entrust his ultimate well-being to him, with more confidence still, if he knows that God became man and suffered too and died. *"If anyone would be a disciple of mine," says Jesus, "let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* Those are the words of a perfect man who made his way to glory through a cross and death. The cross is the Christian response to the mystery of suffering. God in Christ embraced the pain of it as an expression of infinite love, he didn't run away from it and so gave us hope and strength in our pain, making it more bearable and valuable because we suffer in union with him. Pain and suffering were never part of God's plan. Sin brought it into our world and we suffer the consequence, innocent and guilty alike. But God has the last word and is able to turn all evil into good. He has shown us he can do this in a surprising way by raising his crucified Son to glorified life. Suffering remains a mystery but the cross and resurrection goes some way in providing a meaning to it. The rest will be revealed when we behold in heaven what we now believe in faith. *'Those who suffer are no burden to others, but with their suffering contribute to the salvation of all.'* JP II

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1512.11**

**Our Lady's £630.45**

**Thank you**