

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Galeji Mulupuri, MC

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**THIRTY THIRD
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
13th November 2022

LEST WE



FORGET

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next preparation class for First Confession & Communion is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All present, please.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Today at Norse Road and Kempston cemeteries at 2.30pm. Each service will begin with prayers near the entrance to the cemetery followed by the blessing of individual graves.

SECOND COLLECTION

There is a second collection today at all Masses for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund.

HOLY HOUR

There will be a Holy Hour in St Joseph's next Sunday with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 3.00pm to mark the feast of Christ the King. Come and spend some time in prayer before the Lord.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP
9.30am Holy Souls
11.00am Frank McEvoy, RIP
6.30pm Holy Souls

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Thommy Joseph, RIP

Tuesday **St Albert the Great**

10.45am Holy Souls

Wednesday **St Margaret of Scotland**

10.45am Holy Souls

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Holy Souls

Friday **Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul**

10.45am George Paulo

Saturday **Votive Mass of Our Lady**

10.45am Holy Souls

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Holy Souls

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: Cummings, Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Feast of Christ the King

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME & ASSISI

Those who have expressed an interest in the Rome and Assisi pilgrimage from 1st to 7th May 2023 are asked to send booking forms to Pilgrimage People very soon, please. Booking forms can be obtained from the presbytery. **Please don't delay** as we can only hold these prices for a short time. Price £1,290 per person sharing on a half-board basis. Single room supplement of £50. A deposit of £350 is required with booking.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Christmas Draw tickets on sale at £2.50 a book after Mass. Prizes for the draw gratefully received and can be left at the presbytery or church. Profits in aid of our parish project.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas stall at the back of the church, selling cards and other seasonal items.

WEBINAR

Join Bishop David Monday 21st November, 7.30pm to discuss next steps for the Synod in our diocese, including launching our diocesan assembly on 15th July 2023. For more information: www.northamptondiocese.org/for-a-synodal-church. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launching-our-diocesan-assembly-with-bishop-david-tickets-451827617567>.

LUX.FLAWLESS

This is an event organised by the Diocesan Youth Ministry for all those in Year 7 – 13, aged 11 – 18 years old. It is a weekend packed with activities, faith exploration and fun. Date: 3rd – 5th February 2023 at the King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton. Cost £120 which includes accommodation, all meals and all activities. Email: fiona@nymo.org or visit www.nymo.org/lux

YOUR LEGACY

Invest in the future of the parish or the diocese. Gifts in your will are a memorable and lasting way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Please consider gifts for the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your will. For further information, visit www.northamptondiocese.org/your-legacy or contact Brian Emmanuel on 01604 600337 or brian.emmanuel@northamptondiocese.org.

REFLECTION

I had a rather interesting conversation, whilst taking a taxi ride last week, with the driver about God, determinism and free-will...as you do! This young man had a fatalistic understanding and approach to life and was convinced he was going to hell because of his loose moral behaviour. I attempted to change his mind-set, trying to demonstrate that everything is not pre-determined, that we have free-will and can change things including ourselves. God's foreknowledge does not determine what we do, just as our foreknowledge

of a particular course of action does not make it happen. There is always a choice. Nor are we programmed to sin. We are not locked or trapped into particular way of behaving in the moral sphere. We have free-will which, even though weakened and darkened, is still free. Anyway, by the time we had finished the half-hour journey he was able to say, "See you in heaven!" Praise God! We can very easily fall into a way of thinking that leaves little room for hope, for change. Our Christian faith is one of hope, it is not fatalistic. Despite our human weaknesses and sinfulness, all is not lost. We have a Saviour, one who became as we are although without sin, one who is personally interested in us and wants us to have life and have it in abundance (Jn.10:10). But this requires our free consent and cooperation with his grace. Grace is the secret to our salvation, that help God freely offers us and which is on-tap, as it were. Grace is the life and power of God in you and me, that aid and healing remedy for our woundedness. We have not been left to our own devices in making our way in the life of faith and our constant battle with sin. Aided by grace, the freedom we have is not to be used for self-indulgence, which is often destructive, but to exercise the good. In so doing, we act with self-interest, because it assures us of that life and joy promised by Christ: *'Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.'* (Mt 16:25). A deterministic or fatalistic view of life is anti-Christian. Our lives are guided, not by the stars, but by providence, which is God's fatherly care for us. Living in the ambit of his providence we will experience hope and peace, even in the midst of sorrow and uncertainty, because the ground of our being is something or rather someone beyond the precarious realm of this world. Entrusting ourselves *'to him who is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for or even think of, by means of the power in us...'* (Eph.3:20-21), that's the secret of real human happiness and peace, knowing that *'in all things God works for good with those who love him'* (Rm 8:28). Isn't this better than fatalism? The devil would have us despair. Jesus shows us another way; the way of light and truth. Good News...yes?! So, in those parting words of that young taxi driver, "See you in heaven!"

'Salvation is God's way of making us real people.'

St Augustine of Hippo

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1389.00

Our Lady's £536.45

Thank you

Bishop's Maintenance Fund

St Joseph's £357.30

Our Lady's £61.05