

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

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

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**
27th November 2022



PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop David is available to pick up from the back of the church along with this newsletter. Please take a copy.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next preparation class for those children enrolled for First Confession and Communion is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The annual feast day Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe is on Monday 12th December in St Joseph's church at 7.30pm. Mgr Philip Moger, the Rector of Walsingham Shrine, will be the Principal Celebrant. All welcome. Refreshments afterwards in the Italian Hall, Woburn Road.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am David & Edith Guerin, RIP
9.30am Holy Souls
11.00am Holy Souls
6.30pm Holy Souls

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Franc Rozman, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Wednesday *St Andrew*

10.45am Holy Souls

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Arturo Barberio, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Fergus Crombie

Saturday *St Francis Xavier*

10.45am Constatin Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Holy Souls

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: Daniels, Okonkwo, Masih

FLOWERS: No Flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Advent

Readers: Rota Week 3

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.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for peace in our troubled world.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The next fundraising event for our parish project is a Christmas Concert in St Joseph's church on Friday 16th December at 7.30pm. We are looking for new and old talent. So if you enjoy performing, are able to sing or play an instrument or even juggle or whatever, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Canon Seamus or Mary 07708 264054 or Anna 07938 889856.

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.

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. Please pick up a bookmark from the back of the church which explains more.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray the repose of the souls of Philip Allen, Mick Daniels, Ann Coggan and Brian Henry. May they rest in the peace of the Lord. Funeral service for Philip, Thursday 1st Dec at 3pm in St Joseph's.

REFLECTION

There are times when we all need a bit of a shake-up! Advent is the time when the Church makes us sit up with a jolt and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. The Church takes hold of us, as it were, during this liturgical season and, with Christ, tells us to, "Watch yourselves...your liberation is near at hand." Our faith tells us that our Lord will return and that one day he will again be upon this earth with power and great glory. Our faith reminds us that we shall be judged and, therefore, we need to live lives of goodness and love and hopeful expectancy. Many there are who do not watch, who expect nothing, who no longer hope. Our expectation of his coming can be obscured and overshadowed by the demands, real or imagined, of our day to day existence. This is why Jesus warns us to "*Watch yourselves or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life.*" (Lk.21:34). The cares of life will probably be the one area we struggle with. They can choke the hope the gospel offers and we lose sight of the big picture, our eternal destiny and future glory. The stakes are high, the prize is great. Jesus wants us to win that prize and not forfeit it by carelessness and indifference. We are, therefore, to stay awake, alert in prayer, strong in faith. As St Peter instructs us in his letter: "*Be calm, but vigilant.*" (1Pet.5:8) We can be calm knowing that God loves us and longs for us, calling each one of us by name, but we must remain vigilant that we do not betray his love and lose faith while we wait for his coming. 'Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.' This proclamation of faith goes to the heart of what we believe and try to live by. It is full of hope and joyful expectation. The season of Advent, then, is an invitation to renew hope in Christ's promises. An invitation to '*make more and more progress in the kind of life that we are meant to live...so that we may be blameless when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all the saints and stand with confidence before the Son of Man.*' (1Thess. 4:2)

'The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognise him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognising the coming of the Lord.'

Henri Nouwen

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1491.70

Our Lady's £146.96

Thank you