

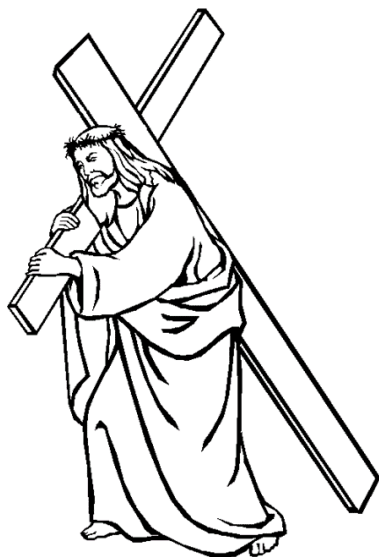
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2nd July 2023



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am John Dobinson, RIP
9.30am Rod & Marie Coles
11.00am Roslie Janoyog, RIP
6.30pm Fr Gerard Byrne

Monday *St Thomas*

10.45am Paolo Micallef, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.00am Margaret & Mary

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Frank Rozman, RIP

Thursday *St Maria Goretti*

10.45am Brian Wright

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Bob Purdie, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Michelle Hewins, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm In Thanksgiving: Flossy D'Souza

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

PLEASE NOTE

Mass this Tuesday will be at 10.00am
not 10.45am.

PARISH DANCE - CANCELLED

Because of lack of numbers we have had to cancel the Parish Dance for 7th July. Those of you who have bought tickets can have your money returned to you. Please see Canon Seamus.

STRAWBERRY TEA - THANK YOU

Thanks to all who attended the Strawberry Tea afternoon last Sunday which raised £525 for our parish project. Grateful thanks to Derek and Anna Ruff who opened their home for this enjoyable occasion.

SECOND COLLECTION

There is a second collection today at all Masses for Peter's Pence to assist the work of the Church in the poorer parts of the world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: D Cummings, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's parish are now available from the back of the church. Please pick up your new set of envelopes. If anyone wishes to start using envelopes for their weekly offering please see Canon Seamus. Similarly, if anyone wishes to Gift Aid their donation, please speak to Canon Seamus.

RIVER/BRIDGE WALK

Those who sponsored the River/Bridge Walk last month are asked to hand in any monies to the presbytery, marked 'River Walk', as soon as possible, please. Our thanks to the Bedford Catenians for organising this event for our parish project.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday when we have our annual collection for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea among the seafarers who come to our shores.

PARISH FORUM

The next meeting of the Parish Forum is on Friday 14th July at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

MASS IN WILDEN

Mass will be celebrated in Wilden Parish Church this Wednesday at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

Our parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje is from 5th to 12th September 2023. Please book as soon as possible with Mary Frost on 07708 264054 or 304014.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency, including UK coins/notes that are no longer legal tender, and to place them in an envelope provided from the church porch. These will be collected at the end of September, after the holiday period. The return Mary's Meals will receive will help its work in feeding 2.4 million hungry children in many parts of our world.

REFLECTION

Some time ago I came across a poster which read, *'How much can I get away with and still go to heaven?'* An amusing thought with an appealing sentiment. Do I have to be so goody-goody to get into heaven? Well, yes, but not in any self-righteous way. Jesus said, *"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."* (Mt 6:48). No room for compromise there! We do tend to lean towards compromise in our spiritual lives. Being saintly and holy all the time is not easy. The saints didn't find it easy either! They, too, compromised and sinned,

but they were not content to remain that way and worked hard at being true to God and living a life of integrity. Knowing how difficult that was they constantly relied on the grace of God and appealed time and again to his mercy. And that's how to accomplish it, that's how to guarantee heaven. Not dodging this way and that but simply staying on the right path that leads to God. But we still have to counter the human condition of our weakness and the temptations that beset us along the way. We make concessions and do not always live the ideal set before us by Christ: compassion, forgiveness, patience, purity, truthfulness, kindness, peacefulness, gentleness, mercy, love. All that would make us truly human and, therefore, truly holy. Unaided, we fail, and so we look to Jesus and his unfailing help and ready mercy. He understands our human lot and the clay we are made of. Nothing human is foreign to him. We have a saviour, 'the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.' (Heb 12:2). The prize set before us is nothing less than eternal life and he doesn't want us to risk losing it by compromising our gospel values. We demand and expect moral integrity from our political and religious leaders. We feel betrayed and hurt when they fail us. God expects from us a life worthy of our dignity as his children and when we do not live as such he is disappointed, but he has an understanding heart and is ever ready to forgive and to help us. He never gives up on us. And, so seeking that help in prayer and the sacraments, we keep walking in his way, avoiding compromises and half-measures. Holiness is an interior attitude of the heart which seeks to walk with God every day. We stumble and fall but get up to continue the journey and adventure of holiness. Despite our weakness and woundedness, it is better to limp along in the way than to wander off from it altogether. There is a line from a song that goes, *'Everyone wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die.'* In a sense that's true. Death seems so final and we recoil from it, but as Christians we know better. It's the beginning of real life, but there is a certain dying to self before we can enter upon our inheritance. Therein is the gateway to life eternal, a taste of which can be had even now insofar as we are willing to die to all that is unheavenly in us. So let's not take risks with our eternal salvation and keep out of our lives whatever keeps Christ out of our hearts.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1326.00
The Mission Appeal	St Joseph's £285.30

Our Lady's £319.55	Thank you
Our Lady's £62.46	