

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

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

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**FOURTEENTH
SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
9th July 2023



RIVER/BRIDGE WALK

Those who sponsored the River/Bridge Walk last month are asked to hand in any monies collected 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

Today 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 needing spiritual and pastoral help. There is a second collection today in aid of this ministry.

PARISH FORUM

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

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Peter Lewis, RIP
11.00am Christina Summers
6.30pm Varghese & Family

Monday **Feria**

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Johnson Family

Tuesday **St Benedict**

10.45am David Hanley, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Myles McCann, RIP

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Saturday **St Bonaventure**

10.45am Denis Gilbert, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Desmond McDaniel, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will bless your name forever, O God my King.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ndoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila/Lisa

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.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

The Padre Pio Prayer Group meets this Monday at 2.30pm in Our Lady's, Kempston. All are welcome.

LIFT TO MASS

An elderly lady is seeking a lift to the 9.30am Mass each Sunday. This could be on a rota basis if there are a number of volunteers. The lady lives in Tavistock Court, Queen Street. Please see Canon Seamus.

PARKING

Those attending Mass at St Joseph's are reminded not to park on the pavement on Brereton Road or nearby streets otherwise you may risk a fine. Also, please do not block the entrance to the shops opposite the church on Brereton Road. Thank you.

MISSION UNLEASHED

The Church has a mission but what is it? And how should we do it? Cardinal Tagle of the Philippines has responsibility for the evangelisation and mission in the Vatican and is an inspirational speaker. Join CAFOD online for the Mission Unleashed 14th July 7.00pm-8.30pm. To register and/or to be sent the recording afterwards go to: www.bigmarker.com/cafod/evangelisation.

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.

SPUC NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will hold its National Conference at Kents Hill Park Training Centre, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September. Full details of the conference and how to book at www.spuc.org.uk/nationalconference2023.

REQUEST

If any older members of the parish know of a Mrs Elizabeth Descombes, who died in 1972, please inform Canon Seamus. A member of the family is enquiring.

REQUISCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Mortimer and Peter McPoland.

REFLECTION

'Blessed shall be he that puts his trust in the Lord, makes the Lord his refuge. Not more favoured is a tree planted by the water's edge that pushes out its roots to catch the moisture and defies the summer heat; its green leaves careless of the drought, its fruit unfailing.' (Jer. 17:7-8). This word from the prophet Jeremiah is a wonderful paradigm for the spiritual life! We are planted in the Lord Jesus by virtue of our baptism, and the roots of our being stretch out to him to be fed and watered by his grace which keeps our spiritual selves alive and flourishing. Sometimes we can feel utterly drained because of the demands and cares made upon us which can suck the life out of us. Not only our physical and mental well-being but our spiritual well-being is affected. Our peace is disturbed by a myriad of things and we find it hard to function properly and especially to pray; our minds and hearts being filled with all manner of distractions and worries. But if we remain rooted in Christ we will not wither because we draw on him, the source of our lives. *"How do you remain so calm?"* some may remark. Well, we know how. We have someone to share the load with; we have someone we can draw strength from. We will not wither and die despite the heat that bears down on us. Our spiritual roots are in Christ who is the well-spring from which we draw the water of his grace, his very own life. The only thing is, we have to draw upon this source every day in prayer. Yes, we have the sacrament of the Mass but we do need to spend time in prayer with the Lord and allow ourselves to be fed by him in that moment of personal encounter. Seek refuge in him; unburden yourselves before him and drink deeply from his refreshing spirit. He is that fountain that never runs dry and is always available to the thirsty soul. *'Our hearts are made for thee, O Lord, and they will not rest until they rest in thee'* (St Augustine). Sadness can easily afflict the soul, killing all sense of joy and hope. But that changes when we turn our gaze towards God. In the words of Blessed Carlo Acutis, *"Sadness is the gaze turned towards oneself; happiness is the gaze turned towards God."* Keep your eyes turned to God; seek refuge in the heart of Christ and you will be able to defy the troubles that are our common lot with fortitude and in the knowledge that his loving gaze never leaves us nor his protection over us.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1188.59

Our Lady's £482.91

Thank you

Peter's Pence

St Joseph's £361.53

Our Lady's £77.23