

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

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

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

16th July 2023



PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE

There will be pilgrimage to Walsingham in Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life on Saturday 5th August led by Archbishop Kevin McDonald. Coach leaves Our Lady's, Kempston at 7.30am and from St Joseph's at 7.45am. Other times advertised on the poster in the porch. Seats on the coach £23. Contact Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054 to book a place.

RIVER/BRIDGE WALK

The sponsored River/Bridge Walk last month raised £455 for our parish project. We thank the Bedford Catenians for organising and taking part in the walk and all who sponsored them.

CATENIAN APPEAL

There will be an appeal for new members to join the Bedford Catenians at all Masses next Sunday.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Fr Charles D'Souza, RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.00am Joan Summers
6.30pm Reg Bryant, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Bridie & Nick Keisters, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Requiem: Caterina Montanino

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Korah Thomas, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Ann Glackin

Saturday **St Mary Magdalene**

10.45am Arron Juby

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Philip Scott, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull & 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.

ANNUAL GK CHESTERTON PILGRIMAGE

This pilgrimage will take place Saturday 29th July led by Bishop David. Mass at 2.30pm in the Bridgettine Convent, Fulmer Common Road, Iver, SL0 0NR. Prayer requests to Catholic GK Society@yahoo.co.uk or text to 07795 205114. Visit: www.catholicgkchestertonsociety.co.uk.

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.

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 in 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.

REQUISCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Mortimer, Peter McPoland and Caterina Montanino. Michael's Requiem Mass will be this Thursday in Holy Cross Church, Goldington Road at 1.45pm.

REFLECTION

I have been reading and listening to the inspiring life-stories of two young people who gave their lives completely to God and were transformed. One, Carlo Acutis, whom I have quoted a few times, died aged 15 years of leukaemia in 2006 and is now beatified by the Church. The other is a more recent discovery of mine, Sister Clare Crockett, who was a member of the religious Congregation Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother. She died in an earthquake in Ecuador at the age of 33 years in 2016. Sister Clare was from Derry City, N Ireland, not far from my birth place in Co. Tyrone. Her cause for canonisation has now been introduced. What is remarkable about these two young people is how advanced they progressed in holiness in such short time and the evident joy that filled their young lives. Blessed Carlo was born in England of Italian parents who moved back to Italy shortly after his birth. His parents were not practising Catholics, but despite that, Carlo had a strong predilection for God and the spiritual, who loved to pray, go to Mass every day, if he could, frequent the sacrament of Confession often and displayed a great concern and service of the poor which he involved himself with in his home parish.

He was also a whizz-kid with computers, designing his own websites and using his skill in logging Eucharistic miracles around the world and down through the centuries. He had a great devotion to the Eucharist and said that it was his "highway to heaven." He assiduously tried to live a chaste life and found strength to do so in daily prayer, especially the Rosary and Eucharistic adoration. I see in him a soul especially chosen by God as an example for our young, in particular those who want to live seriously the gift of their Catholic faith. He was certainly a saintly prodigy who, whilst living as a normal teenaged boy, was graced by God in an extraordinary way. Similarly with Sister Clare. She was not close to God in her early youth, didn't practice her faith with any fervour and was more interested in wanting to be a famous actress (for which she had the talent), playing her guitar, singing, drinking too much, smoking drugs and partying. A superficial life, as she would later describe it. At age 17 she accepted an invitation by a friend to Spain, thinking it was going to be a fun-time holiday in the sun, not realising that it was an actual pilgrimage! Shocked, she was not interested in participating in anything religious, preferring to sun-bathe. It was Good Friday and her friend shamed her into attending the Good Friday service which she reluctantly did, sitting sulkily at the back of the church. When it came to the veneration of the cross she approached, kissed the cross and was immediately touched by grace. In a moment of revelation she realised, as never before, that Jesus actually loved her and died for her. She returned to her seat in floods of tears and life was never the same for her. After a year of discernment and interior struggle she decided to dedicate her life completely to God as a religious Sister in the Congregation she encountered in Spain. And she lived that life to a heroic degree, as attested to by her fellow Sisters. Her life-story can be found on YouTube in a video called 'All or Nothing.' There is also much information on the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis. I found their lives very inspiring, revealing how the grace of God can be transformative if we let him into our lives. God, even now, raises up saints for our time to renew the life of the Church which is ever old and ever new. I feel I now have two new friends in heaven praying for me. Blessed Carlo pray for us. Sister Clare pray

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1297.20
Apostleship of the Sea	St Joseph's £366.06

Our Lady's £217.31	Thank you
Our Lady's £29.02	