

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

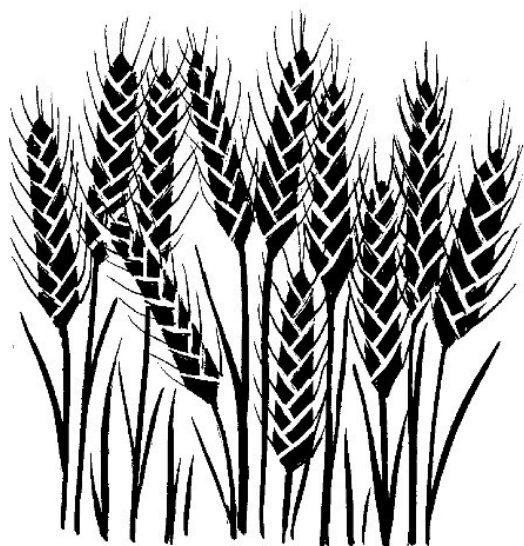
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Galeji Mulupuri, MC

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

23rd July 2023



PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE

There will be a 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 and please sign the list at the back of the church.

CATENIAN APPEAL

Today at all Masses an appeal for new members to join the Bedford Catenians.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets this Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Embankment Hotel. All are invited to join this social gathering. Come and meet some new friends.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Dan Hourigan, RIP

9.30am Philip Allen, RIP

11.00am Eamon Caherty, RIP

6.30pm Dick Gardner, RIP

Monday ***St Sharbel Makhluf***

10.45am Thomas Goggin & Family, RIP

Tuesday ***St James***

10.45am Keith Milsom, RIP

Wednesday ***SS Joachim & Anne***

10.45am Clement Francis, RIP

Thursday ***Feria***

10.45am Liz, Teresa & Patrick

Friday ***Feria***

10.45am Fr Patrick Slaney

Saturday ***SS Martha, Mary & Lazarus***

10.45am Anne Argenio

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm James McLoone, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: D Cummings, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until September

ROSARY FOR LIFE

The Rosary for the sanctity and protection of human life will be recited after the 10.45am Mass this Saturday. Would the person who has the Our Lady of Guadalupe statue please return it to the church as soon as possible. Thank you.

WEDDING

Jonathan Tite and Daniela De Spirito will be exchanging their wedding vows this Thursday in St Joseph's church. Please hold them in prayer as they make their promises and enter into a new life together.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

Enrolment forms for First Communion Classes beginning in the autumn are now available from the sacristy. Child must be in year 3 or above.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

St Joseph's and St Gregory's Catholic Primary School in Bedford is looking to appoint a dedicated and highly motivated Lay Chaplain. The successful candidate will develop and promote the Catholic life of the school, encouraging all to be part of our mission. They will work with all members of the community to ensure the Catholic ethos is maintained and its spiritual values known and lived. They will ensure liturgical celebrations are promoted, the pastoral needs of the school are met and links are made and established between school, parish, home and community groups. If you are interested in further information or applying for the post please use this link to find the advert: www.mynewterm.com/jobs/139547/EDV-2023-SJASGCPS-37814

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

The quest for happiness resides in every human heart. We are made for happiness but in our pursuit, we can often come to a dead end. *"Seek what you seek but not where you seek it."* The sage advice of St Augustine. Sometimes our seeking can bring unhappiness because we are looking in the wrong place. Initially, what we are looking for is very attractive and seems to offer fulfilment. Instead, it disappoints and leaves us empty. This is especially so if such seeking leads us into sinful ways or destructive behaviour, i.e., certain addictions which rob us of our freedom and dignity. Very often this will impact others, especially those close to us. In these days of moral equivalence, the danger is ever more evident and we cannot simply shrug our shoulders and say, well I'm not hurting anyone. We

are, in fact, hurting ourselves and endangering our spiritual lives. There is no such thing as a consequence-free morality. The truth is, we are made for God and only God can satisfy the longings of the human heart. It doesn't mean we can't pursue different avenues of happiness and fulfilment but in a way that is consonant with our Christian values, informing our decisions and our conscience. We need guidance in all this so that our seeking may not be in vain. Pray the Holy Spirit to be your guide and he will help you to know what is right and good: *'Halt at the crossroads, look well and ask yourselves which path it was that stood you in good stead long ago. That path follow and you shall find rest for your souls.'* (Jer 6:16). Keep in mind the moral imperative so that all we desire and do may be for our good, even if that means sacrificing certain desires that we know to be a danger to our soul. The devil tempts by attraction, by false promises of happiness. Be careful! Be discerning and wise. Again, pray for that gift. God is good and if we pursue the good, that which is genuinely good, we will find God and, therefore, happiness. We were made for him; he is our ultimate happiness. Spiritual writers often talk about our lives as a search for God. I like to think of God as searching for us. After all, is that not why he came among us as a man in the person of Jesus? Way back when man fell from grace with the original sin, God came in search for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden but they hid from him: *'And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"'* (Gen 3:8-9). That has been the cry of God ever since! We must not make the mistake of hiding from God but allow ourselves to be found by him. He only wants our happiness and our freedom and our salvation. He loves us and has an overwhelming desire to bring us to that fulfilment for which we were made. Allow him to find you, don't hide away for fear. Allow him to show you the way that leads to happiness both here and now and the eternal happiness which awaits. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI *"Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return."*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1388.99

Our Lady's £205.51

Thank you