

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

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

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 30th 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.

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.

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short eucharistic healing service after the 6.30pm Mass next Sunday to pray for personal healing and for those we wish to commend to the Lord for healing.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Myles McCann, RIP
9.30am Rod & Marie Coles
11.00am Sophie Gmajner, RIP
6.30pm Andrew Hinde & Family

Monday *St Ignatius of Loyola*

10.45am Julian, Charles, Marcus, Philip, Clare Golarz Ward

Tuesday *St Alphonsus Liguori*

10.45am Manna & Mariam

Wednesday *St Peter Eymard*

10.45am Boleslaw Golarz Ward

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Denis Gilbert, RIP

Friday *St John Vianney*

10.45am Mary Orr, RIP

Saturday *Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major*

10.45am John Pichowicz, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Damian Fernando, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord how I love your law!

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ndoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Transfiguration of the Lord

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None until September

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the gift of peace in our troubled world and in our own hearts.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

There are still quite a number of offertory envelopes to be collected from the back of St Joseph's church. Please take your new boxset with you, especially if you have Gift-Aided your weekly donation. Anyone who wishes to Gift Aid, please see Canon Seamus.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Two weeks ago we had our Diocesan Assembly in Thornton College. About 350 people attended including six delegates from our two parishes plus myself. The Assembly was entitled Pilgrims of Hope, looking forward to the Holy Year of 2025. In his final address, Bishop David said: "An action plan will be finalised to address the main concerns of the listening. Every area of diocesan life will be encouraged and supported as we look to meet the changing needs of our Church and the world. There will be a new Diocesan Pastoral Council to take forward the agenda of the Assembly." An uplifting occasion.

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 are 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

There are still envelopes available at the back of the church to place any foreign notes or coins which Mary's Meals can use to raise revenue for its charitable work among the poor of the world.

REFLECTION

Coming out of the train station the other day I saw a little girl who, on seeing her mother in the near distance, ran to her squealing with delight and excitement, and was swept up in her mum's arms with a big hug. A beautiful image of intimacy and warmth between a mother and child. It's an image I have of our final encounter with God when we go to meet him at the close of life, when we return home to him. If we have lived that intimacy of a

loving relationship during our lives here, then we will not be met with the frown of a judgemental God, but a Father welcoming home his child. We will throw ourselves into his arms with unalloyed joy and he will receive us with the same joy and more. We need to hold on to that sense of being truly children of God: *'Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.'* (1 Jn 3:1). And, therefore, as his children, to live in the knowledge of that wonderful privilege and dignity. As we grow into adulthood we leave childish ways behind but we must not, at the same time, leave our child-like relationship with God behind. Even as adults we still respect our human parents, for we are still their beloved children and that is how we relate to them. Tis the same with God. We do not grow up so much as to forget we are his beloved children. A child knows his or her need for mum and dad. He or she looks to them for security, reassurance, guidance and love. A child is not independent, but totally dependent upon the parents and, as such, trusts them implicitly. *"I tell you solemnly, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. And so the one who makes himself as little as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* (Mt 18:2-4). To have the heart of a child in our relationship with God is the great secret of the spiritual life. Unless we possess this child-like quality we will not advance along the way to God. Elsewhere Jesus says, *"I bless you Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children."* (Mt 11:25) The Father reveals himself to the little ones; he hides himself from the learned i.e. the self-sufficient, proud and disdainful. So come before him in simplicity of heart, in humility and trust. Then the light of God will begin to reveal the grace of his love for us. We will begin to live in the knowledge that God works while I sleep, thinks of me while I work and pray, and will intervene at the appropriate moment, that God awaits me in prayer and knows my future. This is true peace, this is welcoming the kingdom of God like a little child. Then, at the close of life, we can go running to him with squeals of delight to be received into his eternal embrace.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1337.04

Our Lady's £114.92

Thank you