

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

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

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TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 6th August 2023



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.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

The Mothers' Prayer Group will meet this Monday after the 10.45am Mass in the Reconciliation Chapel. All welcome to pray for our children and grandchildren in these difficult times, for their guidance and safety.

ST PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

The St Padre Pio Prayer Group also meets this Monday at 2.30pm in Our Lady's church, Kempston. It will begin with Mass followed by prayer.

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short Eucharistic healing service after the 6.30pm Mass today 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 People of the Parish
9.30am Nel Huetink-Voogd, RIP
11.00am Teresa Crowley, RIP
6.30pm Dick Gardner, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Rosemary Mitchell

Tuesday *St Dominic*

10.45am Joan Martin, RIP

Wednesday *St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*

10.45am Fr Galeji

Thursday *St Lawrence*

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Johnson Family

Friday *St Clare*

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Merin Bino

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Alan Tyler, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm John & Kathleen Coffey, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: None until September

ADORATION

There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday at 11.00am in Our Lady's church, Kempston. Everyone is invited to spend this quality time with Jesus.

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 box set 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 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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Hoey. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

We all, happily, possess the gift of faith. But what exactly is this gift? The letter to the Hebrews says that *'only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen.'* (Heb 11:1-2). Faith is, fundamentally, a personal act, the free response of

the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself to us in Christ Jesus. Not all possess this gift, we know, or who perhaps did once possess it but, for various reasons, lost it. But how do we get it in the first place? And, furthermore, how do we retain it? We received the gift of faith when we were baptised, mostly as infants, and it was left to our parents particularly to bring us up in the practise and light of the faith. Our free response to the gift given, then, is that personal act we call faith. It becomes our light and guide in this passing world until faith gives way to vision in that final encounter with God. But this gift is hidden in earthenware vessels i.e. our frail human condition. And, as such, can be easily lost or neglected. Hence the importance of the other sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation. Supplementing all this is a personal prayer-life. Faith, then, becomes a lived and living relationship with God. At the same time, faith is not a private matter between me and God; faith is a communal reality. We cannot believe alone just as no one can live alone. We have received faith from others and we pass it on to others. We are thus linked to the great chain of believers throughout the world. That is why coming together, as we do, in the Mass, is vital and an expression of a living faith celebrated in a spirit of worship, thanksgiving and joy. In this way we increase and strengthen our faith and give witness to it in the world. Why do some people have faith and others do not? Are they denied this gift by God? Surely not! If a person with a sincere heart is looking for faith he or she will find it. Faith is given to those who are genuinely searching. If a person says he or she wants to believe but does nothing to obtain faith then it won't happen. Sincerity of heart is necessary, allowing God to act. Then once we receive it, we must take care of it, praying every day to increase our faith and then putting it into practise in all the ways open to us. Because faith can be severely tested at times, it is essential that we remain close to the source of our faith, Jesus Christ, in daily prayer. We never cease growing in faith, there is never a point where we no longer have to safeguard and nurture our faith. In the words of Jesus, *"The person who endures to the end will be saved."* (Lk21:19).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1263.00

Our Lady's £665.25

Thank you