

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

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

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 13th August 2023



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

This Tuesday we celebrate the great feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, body and soul into heaven. From there she continues her motherly role of praying for us and caring for us her children. Let us resolve to grow in faith and holiness in obedience to God, like Mary, and so join her one day in the glory of our true home in heaven. *'Mary, assumed into heaven, pray for us who have recourse to thee.'*

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.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Myles McCann, RIP
9.30am Colin & Steven Conway
11.00am Max Jones, RIP
6.30pm Celia

Monday *St Maximilian Kolbe*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Tuesday *Assumption of Our Lady*

7.30am People of the Parish
10.45am John Voogd, RIP
7.30pm Linda Richardson, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Requiem: Kathleen Hoey

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am David Hanley, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Maureen Tame

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Connolly Family, RIP
Tuesday 7.30pm Peter McPoland, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: D Cummings, S Masih.

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Twentieth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 4

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.

CAFOD TALK

CAFOD has a long running campaign called 'Fix the Food System', aimed at governments and global organisations to influence them to take unfairness and inequality out of the global food system. We will have a short talk on 19/20 August at all Masses to ask that you sign a letter which has been pre-prepared, and which will be sent to the World Bank to ask it to act on this very urgent matter. CAFOD has written a report which makes very interesting reading available here: [Sowing-the-seeds-of-poverty-2023.pdf](https://ctfassets.net/sowing-the-seeds-of-poverty-2023.pdf) (ctfassets.net)

DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS & YOUTH MINISTERS

This day will take place on Saturday 21st October from 10.00am-5.00pm in the St Thomas Centre, Northampton, NN2 6AG, involving the RISE Theatre Company & Mission Northampton Team. To book go to www.northamptondiocese.org/courses Suggested donation is £20.

YOUTH MASS

Bishop David invites our young people to a Mass in Our Lady Help of Christians, 52 Castle Street, Luton, LU1 3AG on Sunday 22nd October 5.00pm-7.00pm. Please go to www.nymo.org/youthmass for more details.

LUX.DIVE

This is a residential weekend Friday 9th-Sunday 11th February 2024 at the King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton. £125 for accommodation and meals. Open to Year 7-13. To book a place go to www.nymo.org/lux-dive.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Kathleen Hoey, Louise Donnelly and Anne Hamilton.

REFLECTION

'Stop the world, I want to get off!' This was the title of a musical back in 1961. It's a sentiment we can all, I think, identify with from time to time. We live in a world that seems to be speeding up but without a sense of direction. The dizzy speed of life and the attending confusion, plus the instability experienced in parts of the world in conflict, all adds to the stress in our lives, leaving us drained

and on edge. The holiday season is a welcome relief from daily stress, when we can slow down the pace of life a little and relax as families or with friends. Time out is a good thing, when we can just be, helping us to restore balance and much needed rest. At a deeper level, we also need to take time out to build up our spiritual reserves which can become depleted without, perhaps, realising it. How do we do this? Returning again and again to the source of our spiritual lives, Jesus Christ, who waits for us in prayer, to rest a while in his company. Like the gospel story of Martha and Mary, we can, I suspect, easily identify and even sympathise with the busy Martha, worrying and fretting about many things. We need, however, to also identify with her sister Mary, and put aside our busy activity and sit at the feet of the Lord in a moment of prayer every day. If we don't find those few precious moments then the demands of life will consume us and rob us of peace and joy and indeed the strength just to continue. As a priest there are many demands on my time which I don't begrudge, but if I didn't give sufficient time to pray each day I would soon give way to a kind of despondent tiredness, unable to carry out my duties with any enthusiasm or joy. Resting at the feet of the Lord each day in prayer restores me, knowing that he is there, that he is my centre, keeping me balanced. I remember being on board ship once feeling rather queasy and being told to go out on deck and focus on the horizon. It worked! That queasy feeling faded. I got my sea-legs! In the turbulence of life, we need to focus on Jesus Christ who is our horizon. He will give stability to our overwrought lives and stop that queasy feeling. In today's gospel reading what happened to Peter? He began to sink after being invited to walk on the lake with Jesus. Why? Peter took his eyes off Jesus and paid more attention to the surrounding storm. Whatever peril may surround us, we must keep our focus on Jesus who will save us; he will not let us sink beneath the waves. Keep Jesus before you and he will keep you safe in all circumstances and be a sure guide in the perplexity of life. We need, therefore, to return to him every day so that the presence of Jesus in our lives may become a permanent experience, that still centre who gives stability. So remain focused on that horizon which is Jesus Christ and you will soon find your sea-legs.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1414.30

Our Lady's £126.18

Thank you