

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

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

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 20th August 2023



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Fr Charles D'Souza, RIP
9.30am Norman Arnold, RIP
11.00am Daniel Reddy, RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday *Pope St Pius X*

10.45am Paul Masih

Tuesday *The Queenship of Mary*

10.45am Fr P. Chevasse

Wednesday *St Rose of Lima*

10.45am Mariammal, RIP

Thursday *St Bartholomew*

10.45am Carmel Moffitt

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Anne Hamilton, RIP

Saturday *Blessed Dominic Barbarie*

10.45am Cara Timperely

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Rosemary Varghese

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.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

A Rosary for the Sanctity of Life will be recited this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass. All invited to join in prayer for this important intention.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets again on Wednesday 30th August at the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. All most welcome. Bring a friend.

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.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the peoples praise, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ndoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty First Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until September

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

There are still 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

There is a short talk today at all Masses about CAFOD's 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 be invited to sign a pre-prepared letter which will be sent to the World Bank to ask it to act on this urgent matter.

DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS & YOUTH MINISTERS

This Day will take place on Saturday 21st October from 10.00am to 5.00pm in the St Thomas Centre, Northampton, NN2 6AG, involving the RISE Theatre Company and Mission Northampton Team. Visit www.northamptondiocese.org/courses to book. 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 – 11th February 2024 at the King's Park conference Centre, Northampton. £125 for accommodation and all 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 Anne Hamilton and Louise Donnelly. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

We know that God's love for us is infinite, unchanging and unconditional. He loves us as we are, warts and all! And what's more, he does not repudiate his love, no matter what we do, even if we choose to walk away from him; he does not walk away from us. But his love is also intentional, meaning that he wants us to grow in our love for him; he intends for us to become a new creation and that involves change. We can't take his love for granted in the sense that we just remain where we are or that we can do what we like and everything will be alright. No! Love requires a return of love. Jesus came into the world to reveal what God intended humanity to be. The gospel is good news but also a challenge. God created us to be in his image and likeness (Gen 1:27). That image and likeness has been distorted by our wilfulness and sin. God wants to restore us to our original innocence. You might think that once innocence has been lost, that's it! No so. We are redeemable, we are saveable. All is not lost. Otherwise, why

would God come into his creation in the person of Jesus? There is hope. God intends to bring us to that perfection for which we were made. He has a blueprint for each one of us but he requires our free cooperation and response. He cannot affect his plan for us without us. His intentional love moves us to holiness of life and that can take some time. In some cases that may not be so long especially if we look at the lives of two individuals I have previously cited, namely, Blessed Carlo Acutis and Sister Clare Crockett. And we can also see the action of God's grace in the lives of such young saints as St Therese of Lisieux or the seers of Fatima, SS Jacinta & Francesco. God's grace works in different people in different ways. What matters is that we allow him to work, to act. If we are content to remain in a kind of spiritual lethargy or a persistent habit of sin then it makes his work harder and so we don't grow and change as he wants or intends us to grow. The gravitational pull of sin is always there and battling it is wearisome. But we don't battle alone. We have the help and grace of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and confession. These are remedies for our human weaknesses. We should avail ourselves of them frequently, especially in Confession, where the healing touch of Christ makes us whole again. Yes, God loves us as we are but he doesn't want us to remain where we are. He wants us to attain holiness, reflecting his image and likeness to the world. He wants us to be great, he wants the best for us. What parent wouldn't want that for their child? You who are parents love your children unconditionally but sometimes they disappoint or cause hurt. Tis the same with God. He loves us and therefore wants only the good and is saddened when we do not seek the good. He is very patient, though, and will not compromise our freedom, leaving open the possibility that we may misuse our freedom. Deep down we don't want to do that and so we struggle to keep faith with God. He sees our efforts to do so and is always on hand to help, to guide, to encourage and to forgive. Our stumbling efforts move his heart like a loving parent, and will always be there for us. Let him come close then, and bring about that change he wants to accomplish. Open the doors wide to him. Let him have free reign and see what wonders of grace he can work in us, transforming us into something beautiful for God.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1440.93

Our Lady's £256.80

Thank you