

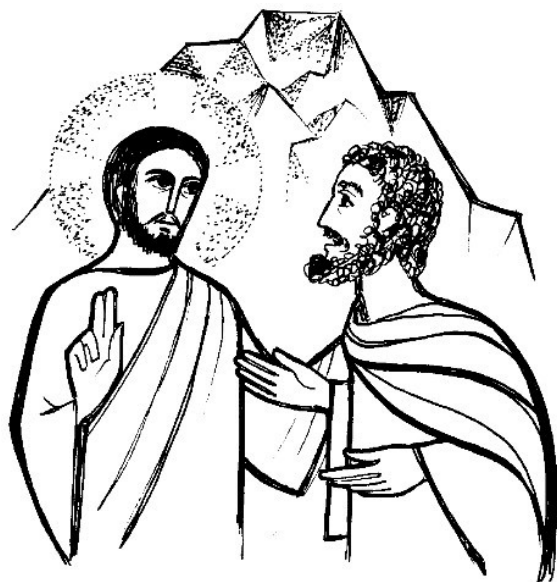
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

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**TWENTY FIRST
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
27th August 2023



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

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

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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

CAFOD TALK

We collected 203 signatures from our two parishes after last week's talk about the Fix the Food System campaign. Many thanks to all who signed.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

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

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Graham Cox, RIP
9.30am Vishnoodutt Bhuttoo, RIP
11.00am Mr & Mrs D'Souza & Families, RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday *St Augustine*

10.45am Abin Siby

Tuesday *The Passion of St John the Baptist*

10.45am Patrick & Jacqueline Carr

Wednesday *SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward*

10.45am Peter & Donna Barovic & Family

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Dermot & Marie McCloskey

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Yvonne, Raymond, Sandy Wareham

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am John Taylor

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm James Jandu

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Second Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 2

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 boxset with you, especially if you have Gift-Aided your weekly donation. Anyone who wishes to Gift Aid, please see Canon Seamus.

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.

DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS & YOUTH MINISTERS

This 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. Suggested donation is £20. To book, go to www.northamptondiocese.org/courses.

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.

PRISON LAY CHAPLAIN

The Bedford Prison Chaplaincy is looking for a Catholic Lay Chaplain to join the team. This is a paid position. If anyone is interested, please let Canon Seamus know.

REFLECTION

Last month I attended, along with parish delegates, the Diocesan assembly in Thornton College, examining the ways forward for the life of the diocese. I initially thought that it might be a rather contentious experience but was pleasantly surprised by its tone of gracious listening and the positive outlook and indeed love for the Church. I think the tone was set by beginning and ending the day with substantial time given to prayer which took the form of gentle praise and worship. We had a very good worship group leading us with music and guided reflection. I, along with all gathered, found it quite an uplifting and indeed moving experience of corporate prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit and giving thanks and praise to God. A real sense of communal joy was had, which was quite an achievement, considering there were about 350 people gathered from around the diocese, young and old alike. The outcome of the day needs to percolate and will bear fruit in due time. But those

two worship and praise sessions got me thinking that there is something to be tapped into here for our own prayer-life and spiritual well-being. Do we praise and thank God enough in our prayer or is it all about asking for something? If the latter, prayer becomes tiresome for ourselves and indeed for God! At the heart of prayer is praise. And if we love God on that deep personal level we will know how to praise. People in love know how to please each other by words of praise, endearment, thanksgiving and so on. If it is a relationship of making demands and of self-interest, it won't last. Praise lifts the spirit, especially if we are feeling down or sad. Transferring this understanding to our prayer-life we will begin to look forward to prayer-time and it becomes a joy for us because God loves nothing better than praising his name and thanking him. Not that he has an inferiority complex! It simply means that it puts us in a right relationship with him and moves his heart to listen to our supplications because our hearts are in the right place. This type of prayer has the effect of lifting us out of ourselves, focusing rather on God, putting aside our own concerns and putting him first. It's choosing the better part like Mary in the gospel story. If we adopt this approach to prayer we will be abundantly blessed and, despite ourselves, will experience a return of joy and hope which is the gift of God and the fruit of our praise. My habit is to always begin my time of prayer in this way. Sometimes I play suitable music and songs to aid me. Only then do I bring my supplications to him in a spirit of trust and confidence. Praise and worship comes first. Doing this with others is always a great help. We become, then, most authentically ourselves, as we shall be spending the rest of eternity doing exactly this, as we praise the beauty and wonder of God. This attitude of prayer helps us to understand better the mystery of God and our dependence upon him. Seek him first for himself, remember he is a person to whom we can relate and everything else will flow from that. Our prayer will become joyful and alive. And even when we don't feel like praying, make that little effort to do so for however long or short, praising him, and see if that doesn't change your mood. I guarantee it will! God is never outdone in generosity. Be generous with your time. Love always finds a way.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1249.60
Assumption	St Joseph's £489.48

Our Lady's £130.50	Thank you
Our Lady's £127.94	