

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

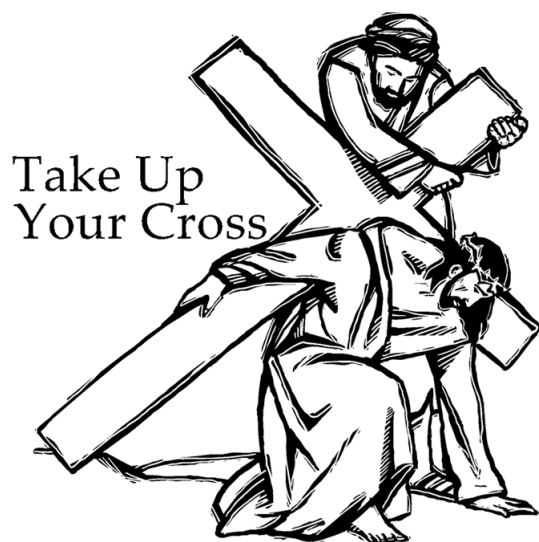
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Galeji Mulupuri, MC

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TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

3rd September 2023



NEWSLETTER

There will be no newsletter printed next Sunday, so please retain this copy for the Mass intentions and weekly lists for the week beginning 10th September.

EVC UGANDA CONCERT

A fundraising concert for EVC Uganda will be held in St Joseph's church on Friday 22nd September at 7.30pm. Money raised will assist in purchasing new equipment for the nursery at St Matia Mulumba Primary School, Kyansi. Tickets will be £5 and on sale on the door. There will be a chance to see performances from those in the parish such as AMDG, and also to learn more about the progress of the charity to date. For more information contact Ramon on 07460 462346. It should prove an entertaining event, so do consider coming along in support of this fundraising effort.

SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection on Sunday 17th September for Home Mission Sunday.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Ken & Bernie Blackburn
9.30am Valentine's Birthday
11.00am People of the Parish
6.30pm Mary & Tom McGee, RIP

Monday *St Cuthbert*

10.45am Sister Maria Antonita, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Vickery, Pollard, Golarz Ward Families, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Denis Gilbert, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Friday

Nativity of Our Lady

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Saturday

Votive Mass of Our Lady

10.45am Len & Gloria Guerin

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mary & Edmond Connolly, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: D Cummings, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Third Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

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. Completed forms must be returned by Sunday 1st October, please.

PRISON LAY CHAPLAIN

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

FUNDRAISING MEETING

The next meeting of the parish fundraising group is on Friday 15th September at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

23rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 10th September

Mass Times St Joseph's

Sunday 8.15am Bill & Angela Letch

9.30am Ann & Danny Ferry

11.00am In Thanks: Johnson Family

6.30pm David Gregory

Monday Feria

10.45am Joseph Thoppil & Aleyamma

Tuesday The Most Holy Name of Mary

10.45am Alan Wright, RIP

Wednesday St John Chrysostom

10.45am Dobrowolski Families, RIP

Thursday Exaltation of the Holy Cross

10.45am John Podesta, RIP

Friday Our Lady of Sorrows

10.45am Fr Boniface

Saturday SS Cornelius & Cyprian

10.45am Bridie & Nick Keisters, RIP

Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday (9th Sept)

6.00pm Aleyamma Varkey, RIP

Confessions: St Joseph's

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

CLEANING: T Nodoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: 24th Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 4

Children' Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

REFLECTION

I have been reading a brief biography of Marie Curie who, along with her husband, pioneered research into radio-activity and won the Nobel Prize twice for her work. She abandoned her Catholic faith and declared herself an agnostic. Belief in God did not fit into her critical and rational thinking as a scientist. Our faith is actually

very much open to reason but reason is limited in arriving at a true understanding of the mystery of God. Relying on reason alone we could easily rationalise ourselves out of the faith. Other faculties come into play in this matter of faith and reason, e.g. intuition, imagination, feelings and emotions. This is how we are and operate as human beings; we are not pure reasoning beings. Otherwise there would be no room for art, music, poetry, literature and so on. God works through these as well, and leads us to an awareness and sensitivity and, dare I say it, a suspicion that there might just be something more to life than what the empirical sciences can explain or tell us. In fact, some scientists are now coming to the conclusion that there is indeed a great mystery behind the universe, and also the sub-atomic universe which does not obey the ordinary laws of nature and cannot be explained in scientific terms. In the great known universe there is a lot that remains unknown and inexplicable. If this is the case in the created order how much more so in the uncreated being of God who, by his very nature, does not admit of scientific proofs and critical thinking. God lies outside all of this. He does not exist within the boundaries of created things. He is completely other, transcended and beyond. He is, as one mystic described him, the cloud of unknowing. We can attain to a certain belief in the divine by our reasoning powers but that only goes so far. Faith then has to take over and this is a grace we need to pray for. Human thought cannot capture God or control him, submitting him to our categories of rational thinking. St Thomas Aquinas, one of the Church's greatest theologians, evinced in his voluminous writings, had a mystical experience of God, after which he could write no more, saying that all he had written was so much straw compared to what he had just seen. Pure, rational, critical thinking in this matter is a dead-end. We can only know the unknowable by entering into a relationship with him who has revealed himself to us in the person of Jesus: "*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*" (Jn 14:9). And again: "*He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.*" (Jn 14:21). Look at Jesus in the scriptures, then, and in personal prayer, and we will begin to see the face of God until, one day, the veil will be finally lifted and we shall see him as he really is: (1Jn 3:20).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1505.16

Our Lady's £250.30 Thank you