

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

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

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**TWENTY FOURTH
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
17th September 2023



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 today at all Masses for Evangelii Gaudium (the Joy of the Gospel) Sunday. This collection helps in promoting the work of the gospel in the Church this country.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Fr Charles D'Souza, RIP
9.30am Mary Crompton, RIP
11.00am Mrs Flood, RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Annamma Mathew

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Anne Hamilton, RIP

Wednesday **St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Companions**

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Thursday **St Matthew**

10.45am Thomas Atkins, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Annama Thomas, RIP

Saturday **St Pio of Pietrelcina**

10.45am Maria Pavlova

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm In Thanksgiving: Varghese

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

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.**

SVP APPEAL

There will be a short talk about the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, with an appeal for new members, next Sunday at all Masses.

MASS IN KEYSOE

There will be a Mass celebrated in Keysoe Parish church this Wednesday at 3.00pm. All are welcome. Refreshments available.

PARISH BBQ

There will be a Parish BBQ next Sunday at 3.00pm in the grounds of Our Lady's, Kempston, in aid of our parish project. Tickets on sale today after Mass at £5 for adults and £3 for children. Do try to come along.

FLOWERS - OUR LADY'S

We are looking for help in arranging flowers in Our Lady's. There is only one person doing this at the moment. Additional help much needed. Please let Mary Frost know if you would be able to volunteer.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERS

Deacon Tony Quinlan thanks all those who have expressed an interest in becoming involved with Hospital Chaplaincy visiting. All those who have volunteered will be contacted for an informal get together at Bedford South Wing on Wednesday 27th September. Once DBS vetting has been completed it is anticipated that the volunteer participation will commence from late October, early November. You can contact Deacon Tony on 950453 or deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 16th October 2023. Cost £699 per person sharing. Single supplement £150. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr Peyton Centre and National Museum. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762278 or 07740 175557 or knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the souls of Louise Donnelly and Philomena (Alice) Wharton. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

I have just returned from Medjugorje with a group of fellow pilgrims having had a blessed and grace-filled time and lots of hot sun! I'm looking forward to another pilgrimage towards the end of this month to Rome and Assisi. A busman's holiday some may call it. But for me, going on pilgrimage is a true holiday in the sense of it being a holyday, which is where the word holiday comes from. It's a grace-filled time which gives me that extra energy to

continue my earthly pilgrimage with renewed joy and hope along the way. We need these fillips to our faith from time to time, otherwise, we might find ourselves running on empty! Pilgrimages are making a comeback even in the secular world. Witness the popularity of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, in Spain, which many non-believers embark upon. It's a reminder, too, as believers that we are just passing through this life on our way to a place we call home in heaven. Settling for this life alone and placing all our hopes here will only disappoint in the end. We are made for the eternal, not the temporary and transient. Deep down we know that, but very often and cleverly we suppress such thoughts and live only for the here and now. Yes, we have to be fully engaged with the world for this is where God has planted us for our flourishing but not to become so engrossed in it to the detriment of our eternal salvation. Heaven is our natural habitat and God can call us anytime to render an account of our lives lived in this world. We need, therefore, to live in a state of preparedness, not in a morbid or fearful way, but in a manner that is pleasing to him. As in a pilgrimage, we need to keep focused on where we are going, and what is our ultimate destination. Jesus is our constant guide and companion. Keep close to him in prayer, in living a life that is detached from this passing world. Travel light! We burden ourselves with so much and in the end, we have to leave it all behind, and that includes the weight of sin, old resentments, excessive worry, inordinate attachments and so on. Travel light and make those course corrections necessary if we are to arrive safely at our journey's end, the house of the Father in heaven. That's our goal, giving meaning to our sojourn on earth however long or short it may be. The great joy of pilgrimage is the companionship of our fellow pilgrims, encouraging one another, enjoying each other's company, helping and looking out for one another and the shared joy of arriving together at our final destination. Let it be so as we journey together in the pilgrimage of life. *'Since you have been brought back to life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.'* (Col. 3:1-11).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1316.90

Our Lady's £197.70

Thank you