

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

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

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**TWENTY-NINTH
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
22nd October 2023



CONFIRMATION 2024

Those wishing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation next year, i.e. Year 9 of school or older, are asked to collect an enrolment form from the sacristy. Preparation classes will start in January 2024. Any adults seeking Confirmation will be seen separately.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The next meeting of St Joseph's Friendship Circle is this Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Embankment Hotel. All are welcome. Come together in friendship and perhaps invite someone along. See you there.

ROSARY FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

A Rosary for the sanctity of life will be said after the 10.45am Mass this Saturday. We are invited to join in prayer for this intention.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the souls of Kathleen Elliott and Carmen Giuliano. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Fr Charles 'Souza, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	David Hanley, RIP
	6.30pm	Anne Cawley, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Peggy & Stephen Keegan, RIP
Tuesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Ronald Madtha, RIP
Wednesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Veronique Chanpda
Thursday	St Alfred the Great	
	10.45am	Julija, Silvestras, Eugenijus, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	John Orr, RIP
Saturday	SS Simon & Jude	
	10.45am	Irena & Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Lisa Joanne Newell, RIP
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give the Lord glory and power.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ndoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Thirtieth Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Today is World Mission Sunday when we are reminded of the worldwide mission of the Church to bring the good news of the Gospel to peoples everywhere, offering them the hope and love of Jesus Christ. There is a second collection at all Masses today to assist this work. Please take an envelope provided from the church porch and fill in the Gift Aid slip if you are able.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

Pope Francis has requested that we make this Friday a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the Holy Land and in our world. To this end, we will have a Holy Hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in St Joseph's church at 5.00pm. A Holy Hour will also take place at the same time in St Peter's Square, Rome. If you are unable to attend, please pray at home, perhaps the Rosary in this month of the Rosary.

MASS FOR PEACE

Bishop David invites us to a Mass in honour of Our Lady, Queen of the Holy Land, to pray for peace there this Saturday at 11.00am in Northampton Cathedral, organised by the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre.

INDIAN MEAL

The next fundraising event for our parish project is an Indian Meal Evening on Tuesday 14th November at Indiya Restaurant, The Broadway, Bedford. The cost will be £18 for two courses or £15 for just a main course and the restaurant will give us £2 for our project for every diner who attends. Please put the date in your diary and try to come and support the event and have an enjoyable evening.

EVC UGANDA

Phil and Gordon Lland will be visiting Uganda from 7th to 22nd November. If you would like to send early Christmas cards to your sponsored children, please deliver or post to 83 Putnoe Lane, Bedford, MK41 9AQ, before departure day. Please write on the envelopes the child's name and your name as sponsor to assist distribution by the Ugandan administration team.

CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS

These are now available for sale after each Mass at £2.50 a book. Prizes for the draw gratefully received, please. Money raised in aid of our new parish project.

SAFEGUARDING

Within our diocesan safeguarding structures, the Healing and Reconciliation group is focused entirely on representing the voice of survivors and reaching out to those who have been hurt by abuse. As a diocese, we are particularly keen to encourage membership from those who have experience of abuse. We value your insight and would like to be able to listen, hear and act upon your advice to help improve our response to those who have been hurt by abuse. To make further enquiries, please contact the safeguarding office on 01604 723514 or safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org. There is a leaflet at the back of the church which you can take and read.

REFLECTION

Do you realise that we live on the edge of eternity? That we are only a heartbeat away! One moment we are immersed in time, in the here and now, the next we are catapulted into eternity! It could happen any moment. I think, as a preparation, and a way of getting things into perspective, we should step out of time occasionally and live on the edge of eternity. From there we gain a new perspective on our lives lived in this so temporary world. Especially now as we experience the darkness of a world in conflict, hatred and war. We cannot escape the reality of it all: *'O tempora! O mores!'* Which is why, for the sake of our mental balance, we should step back a little for fear of becoming so absorbed by the horror that we lose hope and the actual joy of living. As Christians, we must retain hope, and we can do so by seeing the reality of our times from an eternal perspective where all that is, the present moment, is no more; it has come and gone. This is not a psychological trick, but living in and seeing from a different reality. It means a certain detachment which is not a denial, but which engages with the present moment in the light of faith and, therefore, of hope. The oppressive pall of evil is lifted from our hearts because we know, as people of faith that evil, in the end, will not prevail; its power and days are numbered. And we have our Lord's promise: *"Behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age."* (Mt 28:20). Let us not despair, then. Standing on the edge of eternity gives us a better perspective, a proper balance, and it is good for our spiritual well-being and mental health too. It helps us to appreciate the precious gift of life. Whilst we live in the ambit of time, we must do all we can to promote peace and justice, to help the helpless, to play our part in building a better world. But do all from an eternal perspective, and then we will acquire the ability to see life whole, in proper proportion, and so become more effective in meeting its challenges.

'I saw Eternity the other night, like a great Ring of pure and endless light, all calm as it was bright; And beneath it, Time, in hours, days, years, driven by the spheres, in which the world and all her train were hurled... Yet some, who all this while did weep and sing, soared up into the Ring... from this dead and dark abode, to God... where you might tread the sun and be more bright than he.' Henry Vaughan

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1572.88

Our Lady's £433.39

Thank you