

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

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

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THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 29th October 2023



ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS

This Wednesday is the feast of All Saints and is a Holy Day of Obligation. We celebrate our brothers and sisters, the saints in heaven, who intercede for us as we make our pilgrim way on earth. Then on Thursday we celebrate the feast of All Souls and so pray in a special way for our deceased loved ones and all the faithful departed, assisting them on their final journey to God with prayers and Masses during the month of November.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

If you wish to include the names of your deceased loved ones in the daily Masses during the month of November, then please list them and place the list in the envelopes provided at the back of the church and return them to the presbytery or the church.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The First Holy Communion classes begin this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room (access from Church Street). All must attend, please.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Viv Wildman
	9.30am	Joseph Chirackal, RIP
	11.00am	David Hanley, RIP
	6.30pm	Kathleen Keenan, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Carmen Giuliano
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Fr Paul Ghevasse, RIP
Wednesday	<i>All Saints</i>	
	7.30am	Franciska Rozman, RIP
	10.45am	Sarro Family, RIP
	7.30pm	People of the Parish
Thursday	<i>All Souls</i>	
	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10.45am	Linda Richardson, RIP
	7.30pm	Pope Francis' Intentions
Friday	<i>St Martin de Porres</i>	
	10.45am	Angela Pasquali
Saturday	<i>St Charles Borromeo</i>	
	10.45am	Martin Nsoyuni, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Chaston & Bolongaita Families, RIP
Wednesday	7.30pm	Thanksgiving: Varghese & Family
Thursday	7.30pm	Holy Souls

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I love you, Lord, my strength.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Thirty-First Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the much needed gift of peace especially in the Holy Land.

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.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The annual blessing of graves will be as follows:
Foster Hill Road Sunday 5th November. Norse Road and Kempston Sunday 19th November. Each service will begin at 2.30pm with prayers near the entrance to the cemetery followed by the blessing of individual graves.

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 place your name and phone number on the list at the back of the church if you wish to join us. I hope many of you can.**

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.

MEN'S GROUP

It is hoped to start a men's group in the parish as a guide and support in living out the faith in the world of work and in the home. An information evening will be advertised soon. In the meantime, if there is an interest in this initiative, please contact Samuel Baker on 07954 168795.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

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

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection next Sunday at all Masses for the Bishop's Maintenance Fund.

REFLECTION

I saw an amusing greeting card a little while ago which depicted a young backpacker travelling the world searching for the meaning of life. He is seen climbing a high mountain to seek out a known wise sage who might have the answer. On arrival he asked, "Wise one. What is the meaning of life?" With eyes closed, sitting cross-legged, he answered, "Google it!" Whilst Google is a useful search engine it can't supply all the answers especially the deeper questions of life. As Christians, though, we do have the answer and the meaning of life is to be found in the person of Jesus Christ. And the search engine is the gospel, all four of them. Take and read! He has revealed to us our purpose and destiny in the light of which we are given meaning. Our existence involves the reality of who we are; children of God, made in his image and likeness, made for eternal life with him. We have not just been thrown together by chance, by the blind forces of nature, but by the will and design of God the creator who has a plan for each of us and an eternal destiny. Christ gives us a true understanding of our dignity because he himself is fully human as well as being fully divine. In the words of Pope St John Paul II: *"When you wonder about the mystery of yourself, look to Christ who gives you the meaning of life."* Look at Christ and see in him who we are as human beings and what our ultimate destiny is. When we do, we will begin to understand our dignity and worth, the meaning of our existence. Along with the gospels, time spent in prayer before the one who reveals himself to us and thus reveals ourselves to ourselves, is vital. In this light of truth we will begin to be even more aware of life's meaning, despite all the contradictions we may experience. There are no glib answers, rather a journey of discovery leading to new insights, guided by our Christian faith. It is essential, therefore, that we develop a personal relationship with Jesus, which allows him access to our hearts where he will show himself and enlighten us and become for us our constant companion along the way. Life without meaning is no life. *"I have come that they may have life and have it in all its fullness."* (Jn 10:10). The mystery and wonder of God becoming man should convince us of life's meaning. Other explanations remain abstract and esoteric. Our God is not an abstract, he is real, he is one of us, he alone is the meaning of life.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1195.70
World Mission Sunday	St Joseph's £544.96

Our Lady's £179.61
Our Lady's £99.85

Thank you