

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

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

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THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 12th November 2023



INDIAN MEAL

The next fundraising event for our parish project is an Indian Meal Evening this 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.**

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The blessing of graves will be at Norse Road and Kempston cemeteries on Sunday 19th November. The service will begin at 2.30pm with prayers near the entrance to the cemetery followed by the blessing of individual graves.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next preparation class for the children is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Holy Souls
	9.30am	Mary Frost
	11.00am	Frank McEvoy, RIP
	6.30pm	Holy Souls
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Bridie & Nik Keisters, RIP
Tuesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	St Albert the Great	
	10.45am	Grace Chacko, RIP
Thursday	St Margaret of Scotland	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	George Paulo, RIP
Saturday	Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul	
	10.45am	William Orr, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Holy Souls
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

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

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ngoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

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.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards and other religious items are on sale today at the back of the church in both parishes. Any profit made will be in aid of our new parish project.

SECOND COLLECTION

There is a second collection today at all Masses for the Sick & Retired Clergy fund.

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.

CAFOD CRISIS APPEAL

You can donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at www.cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Any donations will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Caritas Social Action Network in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, a Catholic charity, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the war there with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home, please visit www.sjog-homesforukraine.uk for more information. Leaflets and prayer cards at the back of the church.

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.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Christmas Fayre in Christ the King Parish Hall, Harrowden Road on Saturday 25th November from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Admission 50p. Children free.

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.

REFLECTION

I have been reading some of the published letters of JRR Tolkien, that master storyteller and author of the Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings. He admits that his Catholic faith shaped his stories and maintained that a really good story should have a strong moral centre: *"it is that which gives the story its realness and coherence."* Similarly, each of our own lives is like a story in the making and should be shaped by our Catholic faith and have a moral centre to be real and coherent. In the words of Blessed Carlo Acutis: *"God has written for each one of us a unique and unrepeatable story, but he has left us the freedom to write the conclusion."* How our own life's story pans out depends on the choices we make and the moral context in which we decide them. To live our lives without a moral centre and a guiding principle will plunge us into a confused world of competing ideas and lifestyles. Hence the shifting patterns of novel opinions, personal identity and moral equivalence. Our Christian Catholic faith offers us clarity in such a world and a deeper understanding of the human condition which is in need of a saviour. If we don't feel in need of one, and many don't, thank you, then we are very much left to our own devices with no one or nothing to hold on to when the centre collapses. Our saviour is the person of Jesus Christ. He came into the world as such. He is the centre we need to hold onto, the anchor in a turbulent world, both the interior one of the psyche and the exterior one of this material creation. Keeping our focus on Christ as the moral centre of our being, will provide stability and a clarity of vision and understanding which will disperse confusion and prevent moral breakdown. Because of the unpredictable nature of this world, the story of our lives will never run completely smoothly, but provided we have that centre we can continue the story guided by the certainties afforded us by our Christian beliefs and practices. These form the bedrock of our lives in a fragile and, as we know too well, dangerous world. So cherish the gift of faith, safeguard it, live it. It will offer a safe passage through a confusing and conflicting world, the only thing that will make sense of our lives. No need to look elsewhere. The answers and the meaning and the direction of our personal stories are to be found in Christ. He is our centre and only he can guarantee that our personal story will end happily ever after.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1587.30
Bishop's Maintenance Fund	St Joseph's £402.85

Our Lady's £201.35
Our Lady's £38.88

Thank you