

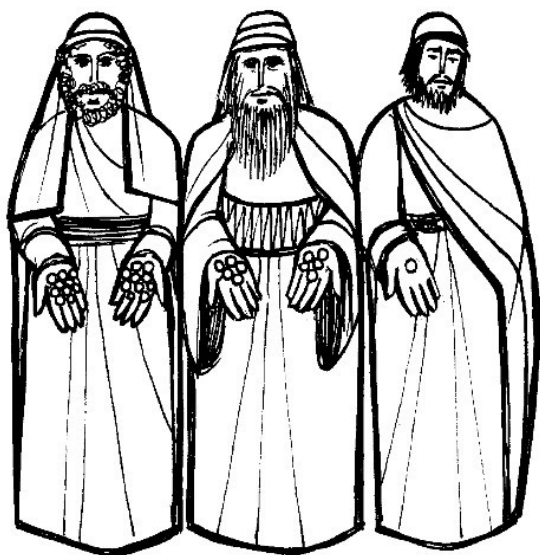
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

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**THIRTY-THIRD
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
19th November 2023



BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

You will be pleased to know that the recent Ofsted inspections of the Catholic schools in Bedford all received a 'Good' in their report. This is due to the dedicated work of the teaching staff and the governing body of the schools along with the wider school community. We can be pleased that the children attending are receiving a sound education and pastoral care in a Catholic ethos. At the same time the schools are looking for more governors to help in maintaining what has been achieved and improving upon it. Please let Canon Seamus know if you would be interested in becoming a governor.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The blessing of graves today will be at Norse Road and Kempston cemeteries at 2.30pm, meeting near the entrance of the cemetery with a short service, followed by the blessing of individual graves.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Fr Charles D'Souza, RIP
9.30am Holy Souls
11.00am McEvoy Family
6.30pm Holy Souls

Monday *St Edmund*

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Tuesday *Presentation of Our lady*

10.45am Alfonso Bacangallo Jr, RIP

Wednesday *St Cecilia*

10.45am Holy Souls

Thursday *St Columban*

10.45am Holy Souls

Friday *St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions*

10.45am Linda Richardson, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Holy Souls

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Holy Souls

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Feast of Christ the King

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

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.

HOLY HOUR

There will be a Holy Hour of the Blessed Sacrament next Sunday at 3.30pm in St Joseph's for the feast of Christ the King.

INDIAN MEAL

Thanks to all who attended the Indian Meal last Friday which raised £86 for our parish project. It was good to see so many people there. Thanks especially to John Moore who organised the enjoyable evening.

ST JOSEPH'S FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Our Friendship Circle meets again next Wednesday (29th) in the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. All welcome.

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

Keep up to date with news and opportunities from across our diocese by signing up to receive updates straight into your inbox. Simply visit www.northamptondiocese.org/#signup

CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS

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

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 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.

REFLECTION

'Lord, what is man that you care for him, mortal man, that you keep him in mind; man, who is merely a breath whose life fades like a shadow? (Psalm 143). I have often wondered that! Why did he bother to create us, given all the grief we have caused him, even putting him to death when he came among us as a man, himself. Tis a mystery indeed! God is perfect in himself. He doesn't need anything or anyone else. And yet he chose to bring us and this wondrous universe into being along with the invisible world of the angels. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: 'God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. In the fullness of time, God the Father sent his Son as the Redeemer and Saviour of mankind, fallen into sin, thus calling all into his Church and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, making them adopted children and heirs of his eternal happiness.' It was an act of sheer goodness that he created us to share in his own eternal happiness. Like parents who bring forth children to share their own life and happiness. God, it seems wanted to express himself outside of himself, as an artist or composer or writer would do. He was not impelled to do so; it was a completely free act of his will and we are the recipients of that gratuitous gift. But man acts with such pride and arrogance and ingratitude, as if he is the reason for his own existence. We are not what we were meant to be. We are fallen and, therefore, in need of a Redeemer and Saviour. Hence, by another free and gratuitous act, God came among us to show us how to live as his children. Love is the only thing that can explain this foolishness. But "the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength" (1 Cor 1:25). Thank God for God! Because of him I exist; because of him you exist; because of him everything in this beautiful world and universe exists. All we can do before such mystery and staggering love is to bow down and adore. And this is the right disposition of the human heart. We are most authentically human when we adopt an attitude of adoration and praise before this mystery so bright. It still amazes me why God brought us into being. Is that truth not something to wonder at and give thanks for; that we are willed and loved by him who is Love?

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1307.40

Our Lady's £561.05

Thank you

Sick & Retired Clergy Fund St Joseph's £395.00

Our Lady's £46.46