

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

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

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CHRIST THE KING

26th November 2023



BIRTHDAY BOY

Your parish priest realises three score years and ten (70) on Friday 15th December, on which date I am having a bit of a do in Christ the King Parish Hall, Harrowden Road, Bedford, starting at 7.30pm, with music, refreshments and a cash-only bar. So, if you have nothing better to do or haven't received a better offer, you are invited to my wee party. If you would like to celebrate with me, please place your name and number of people on the list at the back of the church for catering purposes.

HOLY HOUR

There is a Holy Hour of the Blessed Sacrament this Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm **not** 3.30pm as previously advertised, in St Joseph's for the feast of Christ the King.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

This Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room for those children preparing for this sacrament. All must attend, please.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Holy Souls
	9.30am	Holy Souls
	11.00am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Holy Souls

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Kathleen Cawley

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Franc Rozman, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Dino Michele Lionetti, RIP

Thursday **St Andrew**

10.45am Holy Souls

Friday **St Edmund Campion**

10.45am David Hanley, RIP

Saturday **Votive Mass of Our Lady**

10.45am Karen Casey

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Holy Souls

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ndoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Advent

Readers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

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.

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 and Ukraine. Our Lady herself advocates saying the Rosary as a powerful prayer for this intention. Maybe praying the Rosary for peace each day could be a good Advent practice.

MULLED WINE EVENING

We are invited to a Mulled Wine Evening this Friday at the home of Derek and Anna Ruff: Carlton Cottage, Chequers Hill, Wilden, MK44 2QQ from 7.00pm. Entrance is £5 in aid of our parish project.

ST JOSEPH'S FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT

Mondays from 27th November 7.30pm-8.30pm. The online Advent retreat this year is: "Let the Wilderness Bloom!" Join Canon John Udris and Avril Baigent as we draw on the life of St John the Baptist to explore themes of silence, solitude, dryness and vulnerability, moving towards resilience, promise and hope. Join us live on Monday evenings or access the recording at a more convenient time. To register go to: www.pastoralministryoffice.org/bloom.

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.

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.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The Kings Arms Project is opening a Winter Night Shelter from December to February and is looking for volunteers to help with this. If you're interested or wish to know more, please email kirstie.cook@kingsarmsproject.org.

FLOWER COLLECTION

There will be a second collection next Sunday at all Masses in St Joseph's for flowers and decorations for the church at Christmas. Thank you.

PASTORAL AREA COUNCIL AGM

The Bedfordshire Pastoral Area Council will be having its AGM this Wednesday at the Church of the Sacred Heart, 5 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1HZ. All welcome.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Friends of the Holy Land are hosting a Christmas concert at Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington on Thursday 14th December to raise funds for Christians in the Holy Land. Featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir. Join for a Holy Land themed buffet from 6.00pm (£50) or concert-only ticket to start at 7.30pm (£30). Go to: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Christmas-concert-2023.

REFLECTION

As autumn moves into winter the natural world begins to close down and goes into a kind of hibernation awaiting the return of spring and new growth. In the spiritual world, we cannot sink into hibernation, we can't close down, as that would result in a kind of spiritual death. In the words of St John Vianney, "*It is always springtime in the heart that loves God.*" To retain that springtime feeling we have to nourish ourselves with daily prayer and the sustenance of the sacraments. These are, if you like, the good compost of our souls, keeping us fed and watered, guaranteeing growth even in the dark and wintry moments of our lives, keeping hope alive. So do not starve yourselves of these essential ingredients to life and growth. Nothing grows in the dark; we need the light of Christ to shine upon us with healing in its rays. That light is his abiding presence in us, working all the time, bringing us to full flower as children of God. It's remarkable how many avoid that light, who take cover when things happen to them, staying away from the one person who can help them. When man does not want God, God gives man what he wants! He will only come to us by invitation; he does not force himself upon us. How gracious a God we have! Invite him into your heart each day. Share the good days and the bad. His arm is about you. Feel his caress.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1423.10

Our Lady's £224.21

Thank you