

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

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10th December 2023



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The feast day Mass is this Tuesday in St Joseph's church at 7.30pm with refreshments afterwards in the Italian Church Hall, Woburn Road. The principal celebrant will be Canon Michael Harrison, our Vicar General. All welcome to this special celebration.

PILGRIMAGE OF PEACE

There will be a small group of people making a pilgrimage of peace to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe here in St Joseph's next Sunday from 1.00pm to 4.00pm including Rosary for peace, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Mass. All welcome.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

See you at my birthday party on Friday 15th December at 7.30pm in Christ the King Parish Hall, Harrowden Road, Bedford. Music, refreshments and a cash only bar. Bring your dancing shoes!

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Marie Keating, RP
	9.30am	Joan Page, RIP
	11.00am	Johnson Family
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Minga da Conceicao, RIP
Tuesday	Our Lady of Guadalupe	
	10.45am	Papassa da Conceicao, RIP
	7.30pm	Private Intention
Wednesday	St Lucy	
	10.45am	Puse da Conceicao, RIP
Thursday	St John of the Cross	
	10.45am	David Hanley, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Canon Seamus Keenan
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	Celia Goodstadt, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Catherine Lloyd
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, Okonkwo

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Advent

Readers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

MULLED WINE EVENING

Thanks to all who attended the Mulled Wine Evening last week. A sum of £320 was raised for our parish project. Thanks especially to Anna and Derek Ruff who opened their home for this enjoyable event.

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.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be a Penitential Service with individual Confessions on Monday 18th December in St Joseph's church at 7.00pm.

EVC UGANDA

EVC Uganda started as a charity in our parishes of St Joseph's and Our Lady's after a visit by Fr Boniface Kaayabula. The charity sponsors children from poor families in Uganda and provides them with the opportunity to go to school. Phil and Gordon Lland visited Uganda for two weeks in November to meet sponsored children and assess building and infrastructure projects for schools. It was a thoroughly enjoyable, productive and uplifting experience. Please find a brief report on their visit at the back of the church.

RED MISSION BOXES

Those who hold Red Mission Boxes are asked to return them before 19th December, please, to enable all the monies to be counted by the end of the year. Gift Aid forms are available to use, which will add to the amount donated. Please take a new box for 2024. Thank you for your support for the missions.

BEDFORD FOODBANK

The Bedford Foodbank is looking for the following items: tinned rice pudding, long-life sponge pudding, long-life fruit juice, jars of jam, tinned fruit, tinned sweetcorn, teabags packs of 40/80, bottles of squash, cereal (child friendly), tinned meat. These can be placed in the Foodbank containers at the back of both our churches. Thank you for your continued giving.

CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS

Still time to buy draw tickets at £2.50 a book. Please hand in tickets before next Sunday when the draw will take place. Any prizes for the draw gratefully received, please. Money raised in aid of our new parish project.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their generous response to our Foreign Currency initiative. It raised £402.14, which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 27 children one good meal every school day for a whole year. Thank you so much.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS

The Knights of St Columba have produced Christmas posters which you can display in your windows. Please take one from the back of the church.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024

The new Diocesan Directory is now on sale at the back of the church at £3.50 per copy. Please place money in the wall box marked 'Books'.

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT

Mondays during Advent 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. Join us live on Monday evenings or access the recording at a more convenient time. To register go to: www.pastoralministryoffice.org/bloom

REFLECTION BY BISHOP DAVID OAKLEY

In this second week of Advent, we will reflect for a moment on the theme of peace. When we look around the world we see so much need for peace in the Holy Land and in Ukraine especially. We see the need for peace in our communities, in our families and in ourselves. I would like to share with you a few words from the Advent scriptures. These are the words of the prophet Isaiah used by St Luke to describe the ministry of St John the Baptist. "*A voice cries in the wilderness. 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill will be made low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth and all mankind will see the salvation of God*". This is the peace the Lord speaks of in his word. It is a peace which begins when we are open and receptive to the Word of God, to the power of God, his kingdom at work in our lives and it involves some hard work. Sometimes when I'm driving and see the workmen on the motorway, it reminds me of how challenging it is to keep that road straight that we use so often to get around the place. Then I look inside myself and I recognise that peace comes at a cost. Peace was won for us by our Lord's death on the cross, and when we receive the grace of that cross into our lives then we are at peace with almighty God. So pray for peace in our world which comes from that step of peace within ourselves.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1246.40

Our Lady's £292.20

Thank you