

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

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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17th December 2023



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Fr Charles D'Souza, RIP
	9.30am	Bevan Lewis, RIP
	11.00am	Maureen McCormack, RIP
	6.30pm	Kathleen Elliott, RIP
Monday	<i>O Adonai</i>	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Tuesday	<i>O Root of Jesse</i>	
	10.45am	Sylvia Blackburn, RIP
Wednesday	<i>O Key of David</i>	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Thursday	<i>O Rising Sun</i>	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Friday	<i>O King</i>	
	10.45am	Denis Gilbert, RIP
Saturday	<i>O Emmanuel</i>	
	10.45am	David Hanley, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Antonio Di Gennaro, RIP
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve: St Joseph's: 6.30pm Children's Mass. Midnight Mass preceded by carols at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day: 8.15am, 9.30am & 11.00am. **Our Lady's: Christmas Eve:** 6.30pm Children's Mass. **Christmas Day:** 9.30am.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There is a Penitential Service tomorrow, Monday, with individual Confessions, in St Joseph's church at 7.00pm. A good way to prepare for the feast of Christmas.

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 today, Sunday, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm, including Rosary for peace, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Mass. All welcome.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My soul rejoices in my God.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: D Cummings, S Masih

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Concert is on Friday 22nd December at 7.30pm in the Guild Room. Enjoy a pre-Christmas jolly of light entertainment and refreshments. Tickets on sale after all Masses today at £5. All proceeds in aid of our parish project.

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.

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 packets 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

The draw will take place after Mass this evening. Thanks to all who donated prizes. The list of prize-winners will be displayed on the noticeboard next Sunday. 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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Bevan Lewis and Antonio Di Gennaro. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

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 third week of Advent, you will notice that the colour of one of the Advent candles is different to the usual purple. It is a rose coloured candle symbolising Gaudete Sunday. '*Gaudete, Christus est natus.*' '*Rejoice that Christ is born.*' Joy is a gift from God. We recognise that. We are mindful of the many times we have tried to manufacture joy. But the prophet Isaiah give us a picture of joy when he speaks of what the Lord will do, how the Lord will bring new life to the wasteland. It is important that we appreciate that this a gift from the Lord and it is in response to what God has done. We can be easily distracted from the heart of the Gospel, that God who created us and took compassion upon us when we were fallen into sin, has sent a Saviour and that Saviour has come with a promise of the Spirit to those who are open to receiving the gifts of God. That is a great message of joy. Maybe we need to see joy in those terms. Our joy is given to us when we appreciate what we have received from the Lord and nothing can take away from that experience of joy. So we have thought about hope and we have thought about peace and in so many ways this week in thinking about joy, we are reminding ourselves that God's work is fruitful and that we can indeed rejoice.

Bishop David Oakley

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1073.50

Our Lady's £680.47

Thank you