

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

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## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7<sup>th</sup> January 2024



### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's feast recalls how the Magi, representing the pagan world at the time, came to do homage to the Christ-child. They recognised in his birth the beginning of God's great plan for the redemption and salvation of the world, a work that continues to the present day in the mission of the Church. Bringing with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they acknowledge this new-born child to be divine and the one who is destined to suffer. We, too, offer him gifts; the gold of our love, the frankincense of our prayer and the myrrh of our sacrifices and sufferings. And like the Magi we do him homage and lay our lives before him.

### SURPLUS GIFT SALE

There will be a Surplus Gift Sale on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January in the Guild Room and in the porch of Our Lady's church after the Masses. Donation of gifts can be left at the Presbytery and Our Lady's church.

### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Bill & Angela Letch  
9.30am Mr & Mrs Chi  
11.00am Maura's Intentions  
6.30pm People of the Parish

### Monday *Baptism of the Lord*

10.45am John & Ellen Conroy, RIP

### Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Patrick, Tommy, Mary Conroy, RIP

### Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Joan Slater, RIP

### Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Kevin Gavin, RIP

### Friday *Feria*

10.45am Sian Williams, RIP

### Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Jim Moynagh, RIP

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Steven O'Connor

### Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

**CLEANING:** C Cummings, S Masih

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Price

**NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of the Year**

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 1

**Children's Liturgy:** Resumes on 28<sup>th</sup> January

### CRIB OFFERING

Money placed in the Crib offering box is in aid of our parish project, Headway Bedford.

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

There will be a week of prayer for Christian Unity from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January with a service in St Joseph's on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm. Please refer to the poster on the noticeboard for the other church services in the town.

### PARISH FORUM

The Parish Forum meets this Friday at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Our Christmas Concert raised £292 for our parish project. Many thanks to all who attended in what was a jolly evening of festive singing and music provided by our multi-talented parishioners. Thank you.

## **CONFIRMATION 2024**

Those wishing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation this year, i.e. Year 9 of school or older, are asked to collect an enrolment form from the sacristy. Preparation classes will start on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm in the Guild Room of St Joseph's church. Parents meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm in the Guild Room. Access from Church Street.

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

A Quiz Night will be held in Christ the King Church Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 which includes Fish & Chips. There will be a limited cash-only bar or bring your own drink. For tickets, please contact Rachel Kirkham on 314093.

## **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.

## **RED MISSION BOXES**

Thanks to all who handed in their red mission box totalling £1183.67. New red boxes can be collected from the sacristy. Thank you.

## **LUX.DIVE**

This is a residential weekend from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at the King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton. Accommodation and meals for £125. Open to Years 7-13. To book go to [www.nymo.org/lux-dive](http://www.nymo.org/lux-dive)

## **REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Fernando Di Gennaro and Martin Mehan. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

## **CHRISTMAS DRAW**

The list of prize winners is available to view in the church porch. Winners can collect prizes from the presbytery. We made £1185.30 from the draw. Thanks to all who bought tickets and who donated prizes.

## **PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE**

Parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The earlier you book the cheaper the flight, so please contact Mary Frost on 07708 264054 or 01234 304014 if interested.

## **SS PHILIP & JAMES GOLF SOCIETY**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual SS Philip & James Charity Golf Day will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Pavenham Park Golf Club, thanks to the good work of the new committee. Details will be announced as they are finalised.

## **REFLECTION**

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has designated this year as a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025, the theme of which is Pilgrims of Hope. It might, therefore, be good to make a New Year's resolution to give a little more time to prayer, to make space for the Lord in our busy and distracted lives. The chance just to sit in prayer in the presence of God is vital if we are to flourish in the life of faith. That spiritual component in us can get overlooked if we do not find time to be with the eternal one. Remember, he is a person to whom we can have a relationship, to whom we can talk and unburden ourselves without any inhibitions or self-consciousness. He loves us and yearns for a return of love. In that moment of encounter, we are refreshed, renewed and strengthened. We open ourselves to his gifts, especially the gifts of joy, hope and peace. If we don't present ourselves in the quiet moments of prayer we will miss out on these gifts which are completely free! And what is prayer? St Therese of Lisieux puts it simply and beautifully: *'Prayer is a surge of the heart, a simple look turned towards heaven. It is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.'* There is nothing complicated about prayer. It's just being natural and familiar before God as a child is before his or her parent. So don't complicate things, and find time to do it. We always manage to find time for those we love. Where your treasure is there will your heart be.

## **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

Offertory

St Joseph's £1428.00

Our Lady's £258.65

Thank you