

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 THE YEAR

14th January 2024



RED BOX APPEAL

Next weekend we will welcome Fr Kevin Hughes to give a Red Box Mission appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world mission, and through the Red Box we support the Church around the world where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via direct debit. Many of you already support the mission of the Church in this way. Thank you. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the administration of the Red Box collections. If anyone can help, please let me know.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

There will be a Surplus Gift Sale on Sunday 21st 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. Proceeds in aid of our parish project.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Thanksgiving: Sabichan & Family
9.30am Esterlina Lim, RIP
11.00am Gladys Jones, RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday ***Feria***

10.45am Denis Gilbert, RIP

Tuesday ***Feria***

10.45am Irena & Family

Wednesday ***St Anthony***

10.45am Requiem: Ferdinando Di Gennaro

Thursday ***Feria***

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Friday ***Feria***

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Saturday ***Votive Mass of Our Lady***

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Claire Botterill

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ndoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Resumes on 28th January

CRIB OFFERING

Thanks to all who made a donation for the Crib offering which realised £252.89 for our parish project.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

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

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Preparation classes will start on Saturday 27th January 2024 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm in the Guild Room of St Joseph's church. All candidates must attend. Parents meeting on Thursday 25th January at 7.15pm in the Guild Room. Access from Church Street.

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.

QUIZ NIGHT

A Quiz Night will be held in Christ the King Church Hall on Saturday 27th 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.

LUX.DIVE

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

SS PHILIP & JAMES GOLF SOCIETY

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

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Ferdinando Di Gennaro, Alma Gregorec and Martin Meehan. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

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

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

We also hope to have a parish pilgrimage to Lourdes from 2nd to 9th September 2024 costing £895 per person sharing and £1105 single room. Full board accommodation and flying from Stansted. Please let me know soon if interested.

REFLECTION

We are, by nature, social and celebratory beings. We like and need to come together, to be in each other's company. *'It is not good for man to be alone.'* (Gen. 2:18). We also, instinctively, like to celebrate whenever some event occurs in our lives; birthdays, weddings, anniversaries etc. Some celebrations can be rather lively like my recent noisy affair (great fun! happy feet!), others more quiet and sedate. Whatever way we choose, that desire to celebrate tells us something about ourselves and which sets us apart from the animal world. Animals are indeed sociable but I don't think they are party-goers! That is something distinctive about humans, the desire to celebrate. It's God-given. It's what we shall be doing for the rest of eternity. We are destined for the eternal celebration of heaven, where we shall dance with angels before the awesome beauty of God who is, himself, a social being, a community of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are made in his image and likeness (Gen. 1:26), and we reflect this when we form a community and we want to celebrate the joy of being together. This defines us and is natural to us. When we gather together for Mass we call it a celebration because we rejoice in Christ's company, who is the unifying principle of our worship. *'Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice!'* (Phil. 4:4). Unlike earthly celebrations which naturally come to an end and we, perhaps feel a little deflated, the heavenly celebrations which await us never end, nor shall we tire. Hard to imagine, but that's because we live in the limitations of this world. A new existence awaits us where the vision of God, the source of our life and our joy, will never fail, will never be exhausted. So every time we have a celebration it is, in a way, a foretaste of the celebratory life of heaven.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1491.68

Our Lady's £309.70

Thank you