

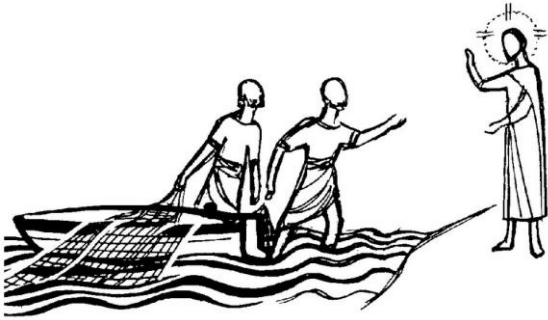
# *St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston*

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**THIRD SUNDAY  
OF THE YEAR**  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2024



## **RED BOX APPEAL**

Today we welcome Fr Kevin Hughes to give the 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. There will not be a second collection as the appeal is for membership to the Red Box scheme. 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**

Surplus Gift Sale today in the Guild Room and in the porch of Our Lady's church after the Masses. Thanks to all who donated gifts. Proceeds in aid of our parish project.

## **Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford**

Sunday 8.15am Albert Herbert, RIP  
9.30am Private Intentions  
11.00am David Hanley, RIP  
6.30pm People of the Parish

## **Monday *St Vincent***

10.45am John Podesta, RIP

## **Tuesday *Feria***

10.45am Joan Slater, RIP

## **Wednesday *St Frances de Sales***

10.45am Brian Wright

## **Thursday *Conversion of St Paul***

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Emily Annetts

## **Friday *SS Timothy & Titus***

10.45am Marion Osborne, RIP

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

10.45am Terezija Dernulc, RIP

## **Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston**

Saturday 6.00pm Mr & Mrs McGettigan; Pauline Debbie, RIP

## **Confessions – St Joseph's:**

**Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, make me know your ways.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Redmond

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

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 3

**Children's Liturgy:** Jo & Raoul Bull

## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES**

First Communion Classes this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Preparation classes will start on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January from 2.30pm – 4.00pm in the Guild Room of St Joseph's church. All candidates must attend. Access from Church Street.

## **TALK TO PARENTS**

There will be a talk to the parents of the Confirmation candidates this Thursday at 7.15pm in the Guild Room. It is important that you attend, please.

## **SPUC APPEAL**

There will be a second collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children next Sunday at all Masses. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. As well as ending the lives of precious babies, this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent issue.

## **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.

## **DIOCESAN CALENDARS**

The Diocesan Calendars for sale recently proved very popular, as all of them went. However, only half of them were paid for! They were selling at £5 in aid of the training of future priests for our diocese. So, if you have not already paid for your purchase, please place owed money into the wall-box by the church door marked 'Calendars'. Thank you.

## **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.

## **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 - £125. Open to Years 7-13. To book go to [www.nymo.org/lux-dive](http://www.nymo.org/lux-dive).

## **REQUIESCANT IN PACE**

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

## **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.

## **PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

We also hope to have a parish pilgrimage to Lourdes from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

Well, here we are in the middle of winter and some find it a struggle to get through it. There are those who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). This is a type of depression that comes and goes in a seasonal pattern. Various medical treatments are available. I am not a depressive type but I do feel for those who suffer this condition. I suggest no medical treatments but I do suggest a little time with the Lord in prayer each day. Just being in his presence is a great tonic for the soul and can lift our mood. Sharing our feelings with him in that moment of personal encounter is never a waste of time; rather it gives time meaning because we enter into God's time and allow him to work his grace in us, effecting healing and peace. This is my experience, and I value that opportunity even when I'm feeling tired and distracted. That's when I need time with the Lord most, and just lay all before him. The burden begins to lift and I am renewed with his strength and come away with the gift of peace, renewed hope and a real sense of joy. It does require a certain discipline but the reward is worth it. The remedy to our sadness is freely available. All we have to do is snatch a few moments each day and sneak into the chamber of our hearts and there find our friend waiting for us with a listening ear and a loving, understanding gaze. The devil loves no more than to keep us in a state of sadness and joylessness. That's his great weapon! Ignore him and come to Jesus and seek his protection and healing. A smile will return to your lips and the dead cold of winter will lift from our hearts. Springtime will enter in and we will come back to life. Let sad turn to glad. All it takes is a few moments each day in the presence of the divine physician. No appointment needed! Just turn up.

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1529.74**

**Our Lady's £559.87**

**Thank you**