

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

28th January 2024



CANDLEMAS

This Friday we celebrate the feast of The Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas, recalling the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple by his parents as the traditional offering of the first-born son to God. At the beginning of Mass candles will be lit and blessed, symbolising Christ the light of the world. He sheds his clear light on us, guiding us on our way through faith in him.

BLESSING OF THROATS

The traditional blessing of throats will take place after Mass this Saturday, the feast of St Blaise.

MASS OF ENROLMENT

Confirmation candidates are reminded that they are to attend a Mass of Enrolment next Sunday in St Joseph's church at 11.00am.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

The Surplus Gift Sale continues in the porch of Our Lady's church after the Mass this Saturday 27th Jan. Thanks to all who donated gifts. Proceeds in aid of our parish project.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Gus Orr, RIP
11.00am Dora O'Connor, RIP
6.30pm James Buggy, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Mike Nolan, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Margaret O'Donnell, RIP

Wednesday *St John Bosco*

10.45am Franc Rozman, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am David Hanley, RIP

Friday *Presentation of the Lord*

10.45am Denis Gilbert, RIP

Saturday *St Blaise*

10.45am Sophie & Vladimir Gmajner, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mary Connolly, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

SPUC APPEAL

There is a second collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children today 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.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for peace.

JUST TEN

During the season of Lent we are showing the 'Just Ten Series' by J John, which is an enjoyable educated re-examination of the Ten Commandments. J John unpacks their relevance and continuing application in today's world. People's lives have been greatly impacted by the Just Ten Series. He brings God's values right into the 21st century. The candidates for Confirmation are particularly encouraged to attend the series which will be shown in Our Lady's church, Kempston, on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm commencing on Tuesday 20th February until 19th March.

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.

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.

RED BOX MISSIO APPEAL

Fr Kevin Hughes wishes to thank the parish for the welcome and generous response to the Red Box appeal last weekend. If you did not get a chance to collect a Red Box or direct debit form. Please speak to our Missio volunteer, Rosemary Mitchell or Canon Seamus. You can also find more information at: www.missio.org.uk

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Martin Meehan and Nora Hutchins.

ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

St Thomas More School is currently working towards the achievement of the CAFOD Live Simply Award. On Ash Wednesday every member of the school community will be writing a pledge to commit to either live simply, sustainably or in solidarity. Find out more here:

www.cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award

Members of our parish community are invited to join the school in making our own pledge which will be displayed in the school. Please email Becky Lovesey with your pledge at blovesey@stm.beds.olicatschools.org.

DROP IN COFFEE MORNING

Community Drop in Coffee Morning Thursday 1st February from 10am to 12noon in Christ the King Parish Hall, Harrowden Road. Access to free support and information from one of the attending organisations. Free tea, coffee and cake. All welcome.

REFLECTION

'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times' (Charles Dickens: A Tale of Two Cities). This famous opening line, setting the tone of his historical novel, can be equally applied to our present age. We live in a world of great prosperity, at least in the west, (the best of times), but also hardship and adversity (the worst of times). We live in a broken and conflictual world which can be frightening. It puts us on edge and dulls the joy of life. Our Lord in the gospel tells us not to be alarmed: *"You will hear of wars and rumours of wars; do not be alarmed...the end will not be so soon."* (Mt 24:6). Jesus was speaking about the end times when he will roll up the scroll of history. God is in charge and will bring all things to a conclusion in his own time. This is not the remit of man! So do not be alarmed. Concerned, yes, for our world, but its ultimate destiny is in the providence of God. In the meantime, we are called to live lives of peace, of goodness, of love and holiness. This is how we hold back the tide of evil. It is strong but not that strong. The devil will not have the final word. We have Our Lord's guarantee: *"In the world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world."* (Jn 16:33). We, therefore, do not react in panic or doubt but remain at peace... (*to be continued*).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1283.26

Our Lady's £360.57

Thank you