

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

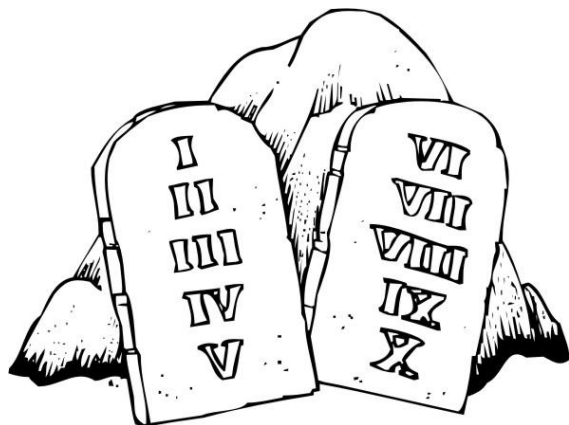
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Galeji Mulupuri, MC

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

3rd March 2024



PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Please take a copy of the Parish Questionnaire as you leave Mass today and return by the 31st March, placing them in the box provided at the back of the church. The completion of the questions will help us to form a pastoral plan for the parish. More will be explained during the Masses today.

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH

There will be an opportunity to aid the work of CAFOD by attending a Soup Lunch for the next three Fridays beginning this Friday in Our Lady's Meeting Room, Kempston at 12.30pm.

LENT TALKS

A series of talks on the **Church in Places of Conflict** will be given each Wednesday during Lent in Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford at 1.10pm. Please see poster noticeboard for details.

STATION MASS

Bishop David will be saying a Lenten Station Mass for the Pastoral Area on Monday 11th March in Sacred Heart Church, Leighton Buzzard, 5 Beaudesert, LU7 1HZ, at 7pm. All welcome.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Peggy Herbert, RIP
9.30am Melanie Lewis, RIP
11.00am Tony Hurd
6.30pm Gjon Qershia

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Mary Wright, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Marie & Paul

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Antonio Osni Tristao, RIP

Thursday **SS Perpetua & Felicity**

10.45am Terence Casey, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Peace in the Holy land

Saturday **Feria**

10.45am Elizabeth & Vince Tierney, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Nora Hutchins, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross today and each Sunday during Lent at 4.00pm in St Joseph's and Our Lady's. A good Lenten practice to help us focus on the passion and death of Jesus.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SHRINE

The Guardians of the Shrine here in St Joseph's church are looking for helpers to assist with the maintenance of the Shrine and in promoting the message. A detailed list of the specific areas which require help can be found on the poster by the Shrine. If you can assist in any way or want to know more, please contact Joan Kedward at jkguadalupebedford@outlook.com. Joan will give a brief talk at all Masses next Sunday.

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. The series is showing in Our Lady's church, Kempston, on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm 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.

COFFEE MORNING

Coffee Morning this Thursday 10am-12noon in Christ the King Hall, Harrowden Rd, Bedford. Access to free support and information or just pop in for a chat with one of the attending organisations or a free tea or coffee and cake.

1000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

From 12.45pm to 5.15pm this Saturday in the Reconciliation Chapel, St Joseph's church. All welcome to join this Reparation Rosary.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gary Caulfield, whose funeral Mass is this Friday at 2.00pm in St Joseph's.

REFLECTION

Have you ever wondered why there is something rather than nothing? And why am I here and where am I going? Deep questions requiring deep answers. Well, from our Christian perspective, we can confidently say that God brought it all into being by a sheer act of his creative will. But what we need to be careful about, and this is where unbelievers and atheists err, is that we must not think of God as a being among other beings that exist. He is the creator of the universe but he is not

an item within the universe. God is sheer being itself! As such, he transcends the created order, for he is the cause of all that is. He himself is the first cause or uncaused cause. This understanding is taken from the philosophy of Aristotle and expanded by the scholastic theologians, especially St Thomas Aquinas. As humans, we have enquiring minds. We like to know the why and the how. We like to know the cause of things, hence the disciplines of science and philosophy, and we also want to know the cause of all things. So returning to the concept of God, we do have an answer, within the limitations of human thought, which posits that God, who exists outside of creation and time, creates the condition for the possibility of the existence of contingent things. He is being itself, in and through which all finite things find their existence. Now this is all very well for the intellectually curious but we, as believers, need to move from pure rational thought to a relatable understanding of God who has revealed himself in the scriptures and most fully in the person of Jesus Christ. In Exodus 3:14, God reveals himself to Moses as, "*I Am who I Am*". He is above definition and human thought. He is supreme mystery. And yet he wants to make himself known to us in order to enter into a relationship with him and find our true purpose and fulfilment by sharing his own divine life. He did not make us for his amusement but to share his life as his children. His love is effervescent and ecstatic i.e. over-flowing and out-reaching. And we see this in Jesus Christ, God made man. He entered his own creation to make himself known and to call us to himself. Our response to this summons is called 'faith.' So God, for us, is not the product of clever rational thought but a real, relatable being revealed in the person Jesus. God is Person, revealed as Love and as our Father (1Jn 4:16; Jn 14:9). And we are made in his image and likeness (Gen 1:26). In other words, there is a spiritual and transcendent character about us, reflective of God himself, which sets us apart from the rest of creation and able to have a personal relationship with him. So faith and reason are not in conflict here, when it comes to the mystery of existence, the why and the how of things. They come from the same source – a God who is truth itself. Faith and reason are partners in the great exploration of human thought and divine revelation.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1442.58
CAFOD Collection	St Joseph's £831.48

Our Lady's £193.83
Our Lady's £164.38

Thank you