

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

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

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 4th February 2024



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Thanksgiving: Maryam Manna
11.00am Nivin Xavier, RIP
6.30pm Hanrahan Intentions

Monday *St Agatha*

10.45am Michael Ralph, RIP

Tuesday *St Paul Miki & Companions*

10.45am Honor Houghton, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Ann Simmonds, RIP

Thursday *St Josephine Bakhita*

10.45am Requiem: Martin Meehan

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Patrick Howlin, RIP

Saturday *St Scholastica*

10.45am Val, Barbara, Padraig Geary

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Roman Gregorec

MASS OF ENROLMENT

Confirmation candidates will be enrolled into the Confirmation programme today at the 11.00am Mass. Please keep these young people in prayer as they make this important commitment in their journey of faith.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next preparation class is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

The Surplus Gift Sale continues in the porch of Our Lady's church after the Mass this Saturday 3rd Feb. Thanks to all who donated gifts. Proceeds in aid of our parish project.

PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop David will be read all Masses next Sunday in preparation for the season of Lent which begins on Wednesday 14th February.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ndoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

LIGHT UP LENT

This is a diocesan Week of Accompanied Prayer running from 29th February to 7th March. Begin or deepen your prayer life, get to know the Scriptures better and, above all, grow in faith and in love for the Lord. With one-to-one support each day for a week, via zoom, from an experienced prayer guide. Find out more here: www.pastoralministryoffice.org/event/lightuplent

1000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

Every second Saturday of the month, starting this Saturday 10th February, from 12.45pm to 5.15pm in the Reconciliation Chapel, St Joseph's church. All welcome to join this Reparation Rosary Marathon.

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. To be viable we need at least 15 pilgrims, so please inform me as soon as you can,

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES

As we prepare for the Jubilee Year in 2025 as 'Pilgrims of Hope' we are invited to join our diocese on pilgrimage. There are plenty to choose from including the Shrines of Northern France in October 2024, Lourdes in August 2024, Walsingham in June 2024 and Rome and Assisi in 2025. For more information on all of these pilgrimages and our diocesan walking pilgrimage, 'The Way of Our Lady of Guadalupe' visit www.northamptondiocese.org/pilgrimage.

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAFOD is looking for volunteers to promote its work in schools, giving an assembly or a workshop. If interested, support and training will be given with all resources provided and expenses paid. For more information, contact Debbie Purfield dpurfield@cafod.org.uk or call 07786 114390.

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 blovesey@stm.beds.olicatschools.org.

REFLECTION (continued)

'All will be well and all manner of things will be well.' (Julian of Norwich). Another famous quote, this time from an English 15th century mystic. It is a radical optimism! Here is something that transcends chaos and impermanence. Placing our hope and trust in God's providence, we will be able to ride the storm and re-discover peace. We are not alone in this sometimes chaotic world. There is a divine hand guiding it, but only faith can discern it. Faith can help us to be radically optimistic because it is not dependent on the vagaries of this world but on him who created and guides it to its final end, which is transformation and glory, not destruction and death. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: *'Then through his Son, Jesus Christ, God will pronounce the final word on all history. We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvellous ways which Providence led everything towards its final end.'* (CCC 1040). We are, therefore, summoned to a trusting faith before the great mystery of life.

MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Next Mass 18th Feb at 3pm in Sacred Heart Church, Stopsley, Luton LU2 9AY for those with disabilities and their families. Refreshments afterwards.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Martin Meehan and Nora Hutchins. May they rest in the peace of the Lord. Martin's funeral Mass is this Thursday at 10.45am in St Joseph's and Nora's Mass is this Tuesday in Our Lady's, Kempston, at 2.00pm.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1632.25

Our Lady's £228.10

Thank you

Second collection: SPUC

St Joseph's £447.10

Our Lady's £71.09