

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

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

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**SIXTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
11th February 2024



ASH WEDNESDAY

We begin the holy season of Lent this Wednesday with the blessing and distribution of ashes at all Masses. Lent affords us the opportunity once again to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to seek reconciliation in the sacrament of Confession. This special time reminds us of the constant need to renew and nourish our spiritual lives through prayer, self-denial and works of charity in a more intense way. What I like to refer to as spiritual spring-cleaning! Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (reduced food) and abstinence (no meat). Mass times are listed.

PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop David will be read all Masses today in preparation for the season of Lent and the Holy Year 2025.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE THANKS

Our Surplus Gift Sale raised a total of £405.37. Many thanks to all who donated and bought items.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Ester Kinsella, RIP
	9.30am	John Fee, RIP
	11.00am	Margaret Hurd
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Jackie Connolly
Tuesday	Feria	
	10.45am	In Thanksgiving: Melvin Bino
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	
	7.30am	Michael Mortimer, RIP
	10.45am	Fr John Priestly Warmoll, RIP
	7.30pm	Kathleen Kirk, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Clifford Taylor, RIP
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Regina Grady, RIP
Wednesday	7.30pm	Alma Gregorec, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

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.

CAFOD TALK

There will be a brief talk from CAFOD next Sunday at all Masses.

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 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 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 at blovesey@stm.beds.olicatschools.org.

MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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

REFLECTION

Yes, it's Lent again, beginning this Wednesday. It's a challenging season in the Church's year. But the idea is to open ourselves to a deeper relationship with the Lord, to get to know him better and to walk in friendship the road of life (prayer). There is also an accompanying joy in this walk because we have a companion to share things with, especially those concerns which may weigh us down and take away our joy. We are also challenged at this time to put some distance between ourselves and our self-indulgence (fasting; giving up something). We are encouraged to give more time to our spiritual needs and, at the same time, to be more aware of the needs of our brothers and sisters (almsgiving; works of charity). If we are saturated with the material then we forget the deeper hunger we should feel for God. Giving up things clears a space for God and the spiritual. We give him priority over our desires and wants. Lent, then, is a time to honestly face ourselves, to take stock and call upon God's strength in prayer and his healing and forgiveness in the sacrament of Reconciliation, where God's mercy is freely available and inexhaustible. Have a good and holy Lent!

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pauline Coleman. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1362.36

Our Lady's £646.50

Thank you