

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

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

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18th February 2024



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Brian Begley, RIP
9.30am Pauline Hardy, RIP
11.00am Christina & Jean Summers
6.30pm Sheila Feeny, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Mary Coles

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Jins & Schalu

Thursday **Chair of St Peter, Apostle**

10.45am David Nigel, RIP

Friday **St Polycarp**

10.45am V.T. Mathai, RIP

Saturday **Feria**

10.45am Reddy Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Ann Glackin

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The next preparation class for those celebrating their Confirmation this year is this Saturday at 2.30pm in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection at all Masses next Sunday for the work of CAFOD. Please take an envelope from the porch for this purpose and fill the Gift Aid slip if you are able.

CAFOD TALK

There is a brief talk from CAFOD today at all Masses in preparation for the second collection next Sunday.

ROSARY SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Rosary for the sanctity of human life will be said after the 10.45am Mass this Saturday. All welcome to pray for this intention.

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short healing service next Sunday after the 6.30pm Mass.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: D Cummings, S Masih

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

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.

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, beginning with our diocesan CAFOD representative, Deborah Purfield, this Wednesday, 21st February. All welcome. Please see poster on noticeboard for further details of these planned talks.

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 this 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.

ABORTION LAW

We are encouraged to support an amendment in Parliament to reduce the abortion law in this country from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in the law as it stands. Please collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment. Thank you.

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 at dpurfield@cafod.org.uk or call 07786 114390.

CONCERT: FAURE'S REQUIEM

The Kempston Musical Society & Ouse Valley Singers have agreed to put on a concert of music and singing in aid of our parish project on Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm in St Joseph's church. The concert will feature Faure's Requiem and Passiontide music. The singers themselves pay £5 to sing in the concert and so it was disappointing when so few of our parishioners attended when they last performed here. Please make an effort this time to come along and enjoy some beautiful music for a good cause. Put the date in your diary now. Tickets sold on the night at £5.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

There will be a brief talk on this theme at all Masses next Sunday.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

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

REFLECTION

If we are honest we have to acknowledge that there is a loneliness in the human heart that cannot be assuaged by anything or anyone. This is an uncomfortable truth because we tend to fill that sense of loneliness or emptiness with so much that distracts, that makes us forget this inner reality. Sometimes that feeling rises to the surface and we encounter the loneliness that lies hidden. But this is not a negative thing. It's just a reminder that we are made for more than this world, this life can offer, no matter how sated with the material we are or how deep one's relationship is with another. The 'more' that we crave for is built into us by God because he wants us to realise that only in him can we find true fulfilment and the deepest longings of our hearts. Remember St Augustine's adage: *'Our hearts were made for you, O Lord, and they will not rest until they rest in you.'* So go to him in those moments of loneliness or disquiet, and in prayer be filled with his presence and a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven. He doesn't want us to forget that, amidst all the distractions of life, our true selves are destined for greatness beyond what we can long for or even imagine. Hence those moments of dissatisfaction that we all experience at times. See them as moments of grace and an invitation to meet him, the love and the delight of our hearts.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1490.26

Our Lady's £400.97

Thank you