

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

25th February 2024



SECOND COLLECTION - CAFOD

There will be a second collection at all Masses today 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The St Joseph's Friendship Circle is meeting this Wednesday at the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. Everyone welcome. Bring a friend.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

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

HEALING SERVICE

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

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. All welcome. Please see poster on noticeboard for details of these planned talks.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Incoronata Ricciardella, RIP
	9.30am	John Fee, RIP
	11.00am	Michael, Arthur, Paolo Micallef, RIP
	6.30pm	Jody Kennedy, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Pasquale & Angela Pogliacea, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Charles, Sarah, Sven & Lloyd

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Malcolm Large, RIP

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Peter Langley, RIP

Friday **St David**

10.45am Da Costa Family

Saturday **Feria**

10.45am Denis Gilbert, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Chaston & Bolongaita Families, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: T Ndoro, S Masih

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

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.

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

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

This Saturday after the 10.45am Mass.

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 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.

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

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Pauline Coleman and Gary Caulfield.

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 own 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.

REFLECTION

I see many adverts promoting various beauty treatments and products, and I think to myself...too late!! Today, in the gospel, we see Jesus transfigured, shining with the splendour of his divinity. It is to be noted that this transformation happened whilst he was in prayer: *'As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.'* (Luke 9:28). There is a lesson here for us. Time spent in prayer will change us too. Maybe not in the same way as Jesus but we will begin to glow with an inner beauty which will change our so often gloomy aspect into a more youthful, cheery demeanour. Prayerful people are so because they are in union with the one who never ages and who is never unhappy. If we spend time in the company of one who is naturally of a cheerful disposition, then we come away cheered ourselves. So it is when we spend time with the Lord, who is always for us and who shares the load of life. In that moment of encounter, he renews and refreshes our drooping spirits. So if we feel tired and listless or just fed up, seek the Lord in prayer. Find that still moment in the day and just be with him. He will do the rest because he knows what we need and what may weigh on us. Prayer allows God to act, allows him a moment of our precious time. Don't worry if you are filled with distractions. The fact that you have given those few moments over to him will have its own reward; a deep sense of calm, of peace, of clarity and strength to keep going, and a joy that is not of this world. We will begin to realise our true dignity as children of God. Let him smooth out those worry lines and return a smile to our lips. It's the best beauty treatment of all!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1348.16

Our Lady's £222.15

Thank you