

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

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

10th March 2024



CONCERT

The Kempston Music Society & Ouse Valley Singers are having a concert of music and singing in aid of our parish project this Saturday 16th March in St Joseph's church at 7.30pm, featuring Faure's Requiem and Passiontide music. Please make an effort to come along. Tickets sold on the night at £5.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

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

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH

CAFOD Soup Lunches continue this Friday in Our Lady's Meeting Room, Kempston at 12.30pm. All are invited.

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	John Pugsley, RIP
	9.30am	Nina Mann & Family
	11.00am	Angela Wilson, RIP
	6.30pm	Raymond Cheng, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Tuesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Wednesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Alice McCarthy
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Laurentina, Paula, Glicerio, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Patrick Devaney, RIP
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	Nora Hutchins, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Mary Armitage
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

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.

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 today.

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.

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.

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 as soon as possible if interested.

INFORMATION SOUGHT

Does anyone have information about a Maria Wisniewski who moved to Italy some years ago? A close family member is seeking help with this. If so, please contact Mrs Ariel Bruce on 07970 046140 or email: mail@arielbruce.com or via her website: www.arielbruce.com.

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Any completed questionnaires can be placed in the box at the back of the church. Please return by Sunday 31st March. Thank you.

REFLECTION

Last week we explored the metaphysical notion of God as pure being. But this only gets us so far in our knowledge and understanding of God. The deductive reasoning of what is known in philosophy as the ontological argument, is limited. We can't relate personally to an argument! So God, the immortal, transcendent, almighty, omniscient, became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Now this is a scandal to other monotheistic religions, which cannot conceive of such a God humbling himself by becoming man. And yet this is the great claim of the Christian religion and thus distinguishes it from all other world faiths. God, in Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, walked on this earth for 33 years and, worst of all scandals, died the ignominious death of the cross. But it did not end there. We have the wonder and surprise of the resurrection! When we ponder this truth of our faith it is truly breath-taking! So God is no longer an argument of rational philosophy but one of us; the flesh and blood reality of a man. Therefore, he is a God to whom we can identify and relate to. In Jesus Christ the divine and the human conjoin in the Incarnation. The divine and human natures united in the one person of Jesus, without any commingling and diminution of either nature. This is pure mystery, surpassing human thought. How do we know this? The eye-witness accounts of the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles and the early Church letters of saints Peter and Paul. These are not made up stories. Jesus was a historical figure. Even secular writers near that time speak about him (Josephus: Roman-Jewish historian & Tacitus: Roman chronicler). Jesus makes extraordinary claims in the gospels and performs extraordinary miracles by his power as God. The greatest of which was his resurrection from the dead. Not a resuscitation but resurrection to a new way of existing beyond the power of death. Is there any greater proof of God's closeness to us and his love for us than the life of his Son, Jesus Christ? In him, too, is revealed the true nature of God: three persons, one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Another great mystery to ponder and one which is not the product of human thought or imagination. This is way beyond the wit of man to conjure! And we believe it because it is so. God is both transcendent (completely other) and immanent (indwelling in all things). This transcendent God dwells in you and me by faith. He makes his home in us and we, therefore, can have a personal relationship with him. We don't have to be a philosopher or theologian, just an open heart to receive him. The Holy Spirit makes this happen. So pray to him for the grace of a real, living faith which will, one day, lead to the vision of this wonderful God as he is in glory.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1274.44

Our Lady's £661.30

Thank you