

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

17th March 2024



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Sabichan & Family
	9.30am	John Cooney, RIP
	11.00am	Sean Campbell, RIP
	6.30pm	Gary Caulfield, RIP

Monday *St Patrick*

10.45am Heidi Billingham

Tuesday *St Joseph*

10.45am Patrick Cusack, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am John Robinson, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Joan Martin, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am Eunice & Tony Benn

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Michael Keane, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The next Confirmation preparation class is this Saturday at 2.30pm in the Guild Room, St Joseph's church, (access from Church Street). All must attend, please.

CHILDREN'S CONFESSIONS

The children preparing for their First Holy Communion this summer are reminded to come along to St Joseph's church this Friday at 6.00pm for the celebration of the sacrament of Confession.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be a Penitential Service with individual Confessions on Tuesday 26th March at 7.00pm in St Joseph's church.

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

A pure heart create for me, O God.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Palm Sunday

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: All in church

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.

BIG LENT WALK

On Maundy Thursday, 28th March, the pupils and staff of St Thomas More School, are taking part in the Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. Alongside this, Mr Hopkins will be running the London Marathon on Sunday 21st April. We are invited to sponsor him and the staff and children in the Big Lent Walk. You can make a donation through the JustGiving website: <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cafod-big-lent-walk808>

JUST TEN

During the season of Lent we have been 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 has been showing in Our Lady's church, Kempston and the last viewing is this Tuesday 19th March at 7.00pm.

LENT TALKS

The last talk on the **Church in Places of Conflict** will be given this Wednesday in Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford at 1.10pm. Please see poster on the 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.

CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

Craft & Gift Fair at Christ the King Parish Hall, Harrowden Road, Bedford on Saturday 23rd March from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. Free entry with free tea and coffee, squash, biscuits and a cash cake stall. There will also be a charity raffle. All welcome. Please see poster for full details on the noticeboard.

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Barbara Clear, Hannah Pelesz and Roman Gregorec. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Some of you will have come across the word 'transubstantiation', used to describe what takes place at the consecration of the Mass when the bread and the wine are changed into the body and blood of Jesus. This is a miracle and we are in the presence of a mystery. In this strange word the Church attempts to understand something of what God does at the moment of consecration, acknowledging that we can never fully do so. In this we distinguish between a thing in its essence and its qualities, between substance and outward appearance or accidents. For example, water can be hot or cold but in either case it remains water. Water is the substance which is permanent while the quality of heat or coldness is accidental. At the consecration the substance of bread is changed but its appearance remains. The same with the species of wine. The substance of each species becomes Christ, fully present under the appearance of both bread and wine. He is not parcelled out but is wholly present in both elements. So we don't refer to these elements as bread or wine any more but the body and blood of Christ. The bread and wine are consecrated separately in order to emphasise the sacrificial aspect of the Mass; Jesus shedding his blood for us on the cross. Substance is the essence of a thing or that which dictates our reaction to a thing. Therefore, our reaction to the elements of bread and wine changes because the substance has changed by God's power. Words are inadequate to grasp this mystery; language breaks down. I am reminded of the parish priest of Lourdes who said of St Bernadette: "*she knows nothing, but understands everything.*" There is a language and a knowing which does not depend on intellectual ability, but on love. St Bernadette had an intuitive grasp of the truths of the faith. If we have a true love and devotion to the Mass and the Blessed Sacrament, if we have a true and deep love for Jesus, we will possess an understanding that surpasses human knowledge in matters of faith. And so we take Jesus at his word. He meant exactly what he said when he took bread and wine at the Last Supper and gave us the Eucharist as an abiding memorial of his passion, death and resurrection. In this way he keeps his promise to be with us always, until the end of time. We will take a closer look at this truth contained in the Mass next week.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1577.16

Our Lady's £513.95

Thank you