

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

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

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PALM SUNDAY

24th March 2024



HOLY WEEK

Today begins the most solemn week in the Church's liturgical year. The great events of our Lord's redemptive work are recalled and celebrated in the various liturgies of Holy Week. Please make a special effort to attend the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum, beginning on Maundy Thursday evening and, in particular, the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at 8.30pm. Please pick up a separate sheet at the back of the church detailing the Holy Week Services.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no 10.45am Mass this Thursday, Friday and Saturday and no Eucharistic Adoration this Thursday or Saturday. Also, there will be no Vigil Mass in Our Lady's on Holy Saturday (30th March). The Easter Sunday Mass in Our Lady's will be at 9.30am.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

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

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Anthony Herbert, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Emma Whittingham, RIP
	6.30pm	Maria Green & Family, RIP
Monday	Holy Week	
	10.45am	Michael & Catherine Micallef, RIP
Tuesday	Holy Week	
	10.45am	Bernard Atkins
Wednesday	Holy Week	
	10.45am	Sophie & Vladimir Gmajner, RIP
Thursday	Maundy Thursday	
	8.00pm	Amelia Di Monaco & Tony
Friday	Good Friday	
	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil	
	8.30pm	People of the Parish

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Anne Hamilton, RIP
Thursday	8.00pm	John Ciantar, RIP
Good Friday	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None this Thursday

CLEANING: A Daniels, S Masih, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: All flower arrangers.

NEXT SUNDAY: Easter Sunday

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: All in church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross today at 4.00pm in St Joseph's and Our Lady's. Also on Good Friday. See above.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions on Holy Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm in St Joseph's and from 5.00pm to 5.30pm in Our Lady's.

CHRISM MASS

We are invited to the Chrism Mass this Thursday in Northampton Cathedral, Kingsthorpe Road, NN2 6AG at 11.00am followed by refreshments in the Cathedral Centre.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

All Ministers of Holy Communion are requested to renew their commitment as ministers at the Maundy Thursday Mass at 8.00pm.

GOOD FRIDAY WITNESS

An ecumenical service of Christian Witness will be held on Good Friday at 12noon in St Paul's Square. All are invited to take part as an act of witness and prayer with our fellow Christians.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The collection on Good Friday at the Stations of the Cross and the 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy is for the support of the Holy Land Shrines.

HOLY WEEK POSTERS

The Knights of St Columba have produced a Holy Week poster which you can pick up from the back of the church and display in your window.

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.

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.

CONCERT

Thanks to all who attended the Concert last Saturday which raised £600 for our parish project. Thanks especially to those who helped set up the church for the concert.

REFLECTION

Having grappled last week with the word 'Transubstantiation' in relation to the consecration in the Mass, we have another, less familiar word to describe this liturgical action namely, 'Anamnesis'. This is a Greek word meaning 'a calling to mind' or remembrance, referring to the memorial character of the Eucharist. When at the last supper Jesus said "*Do this in memory of me*", after he consecrated the bread and wine, he did not just mean a memorial but an actual re-presentation of what he was about to do in his death and resurrection. In this he was using the Jewish notion of memory within a liturgical action, which is not just recalling a past event but a re-presentation in liturgical form of that actual event. For example, the Passover Meal, central to the Jewish faith, recalling the exodus of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land, is made present to the people of today as they celebrate the meal. And this is what our Lord meant when he said, "*Do this in memory of me.*" He was saying, make present once again the mystery of my death and resurrection. Whenever the Mass is celebrated then, what took place on Calvary 2000 years ago is made present to us today. It does not happen again because his sacrifice is once and for all. But in a mysterious way, that event, so long ago, is made present to us in sacramental form in the liturgy of the Eucharist. We, therefore, become in a sense, eye-witnesses to the death and resurrection of Christ; we are there on Calvary and at his resurrection. We become, in the Mass, present to this momentous and historical event. Time and space coalesce in that moment. We are not separated by time, we are not by-standers in the great drama of our redemption. We become part of it, caught up as actors in this liturgical setting we call the Mass. And some say the Mass is boring!! So in the Mass we can imagine ourselves on Calvary and at the empty tomb with the risen Jesus before us. All this is truly and really made present to us in the Mass. It's not just the changing of the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood. It is the whole drama of what took place so long ago and now recalled (Anamnesis) and made present for us today. Hard to understand, but it is so. This is how Jesus makes good his promise to be with us always, until the end of time. As we enter Holy Week let us participate fully in these events central to our lives of faith.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1396.73

Our Lady's £502.95

Thank you