

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

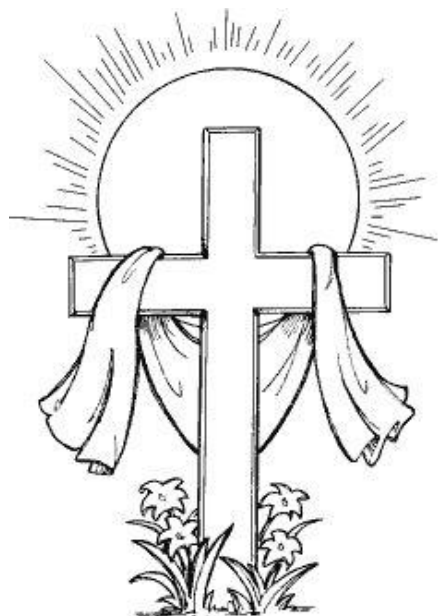
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Galeji Mulupuri, MC

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EASTER SUNDAY

31st March 2024



EASTER

Today is the greatest feast in the life of the Church and in the life of every Christian. This is because we share in the victory of Christ who defeated the power of sin and death. Christ's resurrection gives meaning to our earthly existence. We are made for life and future glory. It is this Easter faith which dispels the sadness and hopelessness that can so easily trouble us in this uncertain world. It might be good to remember that we live in a passing world, that we are made for an eternal world quite different from this familiar one. We live, then, in joyful hope and sing alleluia in our hearts.

THANKS

Thanks to all who helped with the Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Our musicians, singers, readers and ministers, our altar servers, flower arrangers and church cleaners. Thanks, too, for your generous Easter offering and Easter greetings.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Ann Ferry, RIP
9.30am David Smith
11.00am Lisa Jacobs
6.30pm Gloria Harper

Monday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Denorah Burnett, RIP

Tuesday *Easter Octave*

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Aalvin Juby

Wednesday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Mary Lombardo

Thursday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Jenny Podesta

Friday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Tita Barreda Ellorin, RIP

Saturday *Easter Octave*

10.45am Fr Gerald Flood, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Sunday 9.30am Julianne Ha-Cheng

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until later this month

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the feast of Divine Mercy when we recall and celebrate the great mercy of God revealed in Christ. There will be an afternoon of prayer and devotion at St Joseph's, starting at 2.45pm with the blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, followed by the 3 o'clock prayer, Chaplet, Benediction and Consecration Prayer. Confessions will be available afterwards. All are invited to this time of prayer, invoking God's mercy, especially for the people of the Holy Land and Ukraine.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

A further opportunity to pray for peace this Saturday with the Fatima Devotions after the 10.45am Mass.

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Please place all completed questionnaires in the box at the back of the church.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

Beginning on Tuesday 16th April and running for six weeks including a retreat day on Saturday 18th May. Life in the Spirit Seminars are designed for anyone looking to know more about life in the Spirit of God. The Seminars are free to attend and can be joined at Northampton Cathedral or one of the 'hub' venues in Milton Keynes, Luton, Slough, Bedford (Christ the King church), Corby or Aylesbury. For more information visit: www.northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2024. There are also leaflets at the back of the church.

MASS FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

There will be a Mass for the sick and housebound at Northampton Cathedral on Saturday 27th April at 11.00am. All welcome.

DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Daughters of the Holy Spirit Associates are making an appeal for donations to elderly villagers in Gayaza, Uganda. They have already paid for the cost of a cow (£250), which is of invaluable use to them, and groceries. They would also like to buy various medicines and other gifts. If you would like to donate any amount at all, please contact mariafordham@gmail.com or 07523 079258.

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Maureen Porter, Roman Gregorec, Carmela Eastland and Barbara Clear. May they rest in peace.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 26th May for five nights at £899 per person sharing. Visiting Knock Shrine, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick and Ashford Castle. Single supplement on enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762278 or 07740 175557 or email: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

REFLECTION

'This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.' With the whole Church we indeed rejoice. Death is swallowed up in victory! We are filled with joy because of the light of Easter. Yes, we still *'suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune'* (Hamlet) in this mortal life. Jesus himself experienced such in his passion and death. But the *'darkness has been put to flight by the living Lord of light.'* For a short while the light of Christ was extinguished but returned more vital, more luminous than ever. The power of darkness, the power of the evil one has an expiry date. It will not prevail. Jesus Christ has won the victory: *"Now is the judgment of this world, now is the prince of this world to be cast out."* (Jn12:31). Prayer and the sacraments of the Church, especially the Mass and Confession, are the means to keeping ourselves protected and close to the source of all life and goodness, Jesus the risen One. Living in the light of this truth makes all the difference. Our lives will begin to be pervaded by a real sense of joy even in the saddest times. In the resurrection we enter into a new way of being and understanding as we live our lives in this passing world. Beyond the horizon of death, life awaits, real life, pure life, eternal life. There we shall gaze with wonder and gratitude upon all those things that God has prepared for those who love him: *'There the everlasting rooms are in readiness, there the treasures of good things will be opened, there the kingdom prepared from the beginning of the ages will be ours.'* (Ancient Easter homily).

*Wishing you the joy and blessing of
the Risen Lord this Easter.
Canon Seamus & Fr Galejů*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1593.93

Our Lady's £340.38

Thank you