

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

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 7th April 2024



MISSION APPEAL

There will be a Mission Appeal by the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) next Sunday at all the Masses with a second collection in aid of their mission work.

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Please place completed parish questionnaires in the box at the back of the church this week. Thank you.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

In preparation for the Jubilee Year within this Year of Prayer, Bishop David and Canon John Udris will lead a pilgrimage to Northern France from 15th to 22nd October visiting Lisieux, the home of St Therese, Chartres Cathedral and Paris. For more information visit www.northamptondiocese.org/france.

CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

Saturday 13th April, 1pm - 4pm at Christ the King Hall, Harrowden Rd, Bedford. Free entry. See poster on noticeboard for full details.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Ian Herbert, RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.00am Mawazo Marie Devolte, RIP
6.30pm D'Lores & Family

Monday *Annunciation of the Lord*

10.45am Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Paul Mulligan, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Roberts Family

Thursday *St Stanislaus*

10.45am Leon Lewis, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Alwyn Joseph, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am Fr Gerald Flood, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Sunday 6.00pm Alma & Roman Gregorec, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond.

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None until 28th April

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Today is the feast of Divine Mercy when we recall and celebrate the great mercy of God revealed in Christ. There is an afternoon of prayer and devotion in 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 for ourselves, our dear ones and especially for the people of the Holy Land and Ukraine.

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. Please take one.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

Parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 17th to 24th September 2024. 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.

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.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland 26th May 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

'With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started.' (Heb12:1). We have just celebrated Easter and continue to do so until the feast of Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit. How we need this Eastertide in a world that has grown dark with conflicts and war, growing secularism, the spread of online pornography poisoning the minds of our young, drug and alcohol addiction, the culture of death with abortion and euthanasia. I could go on. All sin has the pall of death about it because it saps the life out of us by pushing God, the life of the soul, away, especially where serious sin is involved. But we are people of the resurrection, sharing in the victory of Christ over the power of sin. Yes, the victory is won but the war is not over. *"Be calm but vigilant. Your enemy the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand up to him, strong in faith."* (Pet 5:8-9). Be vigilant. Don't let sin rule you. Don't get used to sin. Don't allow habits of sin to cling to you. You could be risking your eternal soul. Sin makes you old inside, dull and lifeless, because it pushes God aside and he is the one who keeps us young and alive because he is so! Frequently, then, seek forgiveness in the sacrament of Confession, the remedy for the malady of sin. This sacrament acts like an inoculation, building up our spiritual immune system. And it doesn't hurt like a jab! It might hurt our pride, but that's no bad thing. Today is Divine Mercy Sunday when, in a special way, God's mercy meets our misery and there creates healing and peace. Avail yourselves of this opportunity for forgiveness in Confession if you haven't done so already this Lent. We all struggle with weakness but we are not left to ourselves in this struggle. The remedy is Christ. Approach him, the throne of grace. Don't delay. God's mercy is infinite but our time is limited. Act now. You will be eternally grateful. We have Our Lady and the saints, that great cloud of witnesses to help us and encourage us in the contest of faith. We are not alone in our efforts to run the race we have started. So if you want to stay young and alive in joyful hope, despite everything that may threaten us, seek Christ and his mercy. He stands at the door and knocks. Open to him.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £2957.12

Our Lady's £595.52

Thank you

Good Friday

St Joseph's £852.37

Our Lady's £182.22