

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 14th April 2024



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Ann Ferry, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Maureen Atkins
	6.30pm	Bernard Atkins
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Denis Gilbert, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	John & Peggie Macken, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Fr Gerald Flood, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Dave Roy, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Franciska Rozman, RIP
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	In Thanksgiving: Varghese
----------	--------	---------------------------

MISSION APPEAL

There is a Mission Appeal by the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) today 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. Thank you.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The next preparation class for the candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation is also this Saturday at 2.30pm in the Guild Room.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Next Sunday is a Day of Prayer for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. There will be a second collection next Sunday for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund, assisting our seminarians through their formation.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: None until 28th April

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Did you know that the Northampton Diocese has a Women in Ministry Group? We have our own web page www.northamptondiocese.org/women-in-ministry and we made a key contribution to the recent Diocesan Assembly. We have been active for a number of years and want to invite the women of our diocese to our next gathering on June 8th at St Mary's Woburn Sands, 10am until 4pm. This is an opportunity to reflect on women in the Catholic Church, their calling and vocation, their gifts and ministries, their voice in the Synod and a chance to listen, pray, share, and reflect. For more information, please email helen.burgess@northamptondiocese.org. All are welcome!

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 e.g. Christ the King church, Harrowden Road, Bedford. For more information visit: www.northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2024.

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 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.

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. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762278 or 07740 175557 or email: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

PARISH PROPERTY FIRE MARSHAL

The diocese wants each parish to have at least two Fire Marshals. The role of a marshal is not to tackle fires but to be a point of contact with the fire service in the event of a fire and ensure that full evacuation has taken place. Online training will be provided. Anyone interested, let me know by 30th April.

REFLECTION

'Since you have been brought back to life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven where Christ is... Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth because you have died and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed, you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.' (Col 3:1-4). St Paul directs our minds and hearts to our true home and destiny in

heaven, won for us by the death and resurrection of Jesus. He exhorts us not to become absorbed in the affairs of this earthly life but to focus on where we are going because we are on a journey and we need to keep our eyes on the road! A laudable sentiment but far from easy. We do get absorbed or distracted by the affairs of life; that's just how things are in this world. Knowing this, we need to be careful not to lose our way or to lose hope. We need guidance, we need direction, we need encouragement and we need the companionship of fellow travellers. We cannot do this journey on our own. My job, as a priest, is to get you to heaven, which means I must know the way myself. Of course it's not all down to me; I'm just a pilgrim guide, if you like. Jesus is the way, follow him! How? Listen to him in prayer. Pay attention to him in the gospels and in the teaching and guidance of his Church. Celebrate being in his company in the Mass. Come to him in your woundedness and sinfulness. Get to know him as your friend, your travelling companion, your brother. Also, learn from the saints. They've been where we are. They know the way. Put down those self-help guides and read the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. They are a great inspiration, e.g. Blessed Carlo Acutis, Sister Clare Crocket. You will have heard the saying, *'He/she is so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good!'* I dispute that. Again, look at the lives of the saints. It was because they were heavenly minded that they were able to do so much earthly good. Witness Mother Teresa. It is when we are filled with the love of Christ that we can properly love and serve our neighbour, seeing in them the image of Jesus. A purely humanistic approach is not the complete picture. We are human, yes, but we are also made for divinity, to be sons and daughters of God. That is our true dignity: *'When Christ is revealed, you too will be revealed in all your glory.'* Be mindful of this as we go about our daily affairs, and pray to the Holy Spirit to see things through this prism which shines light on our lives in this world and reveals the real beauty of our existence. Then we will begin to live lives worthy of our dignity, worthy of God's love and what he has prepared for us. We will not want to do anything to offend that love and mar the beauty of that relationship. Being heavenly minded will keep us on course in the upward call of faith towards our journey's end.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1689.32

Our Lady's £483.64

Thank you