

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

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## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

21<sup>st</sup> April 2024



### **Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford**

|        |         |                          |
|--------|---------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 8.15am  | Bud Flanagan             |
|        | 9.30am  | People of the Parish     |
|        | 11.00am | Harper & Powell Families |
|        | 6.30pm  | Special Intention        |

Monday **Feria**

10.45am John Crow, RIP

Tuesday **St George**

10.45am Graham Wells, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Mary, Michael & Mee

Thursday **St Mark**

10.45am Patsy Lynch & Family

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Kathleen Graham, RIP

Saturday **Feria**

10.45am Krystyna Moczulska, RIP

### **Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston**

Saturday 6.00pm Carmen Giuliano, RIP

## **VOCATIONS SUNDAY**

Today is a Day of Prayer for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Please keep this intention in your prayers, especially for our diocese. There will be a second collection today for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund, assisting our seminarians through their formation. Please pick up a Vocations Newsletter and a Prayer Card from the back of the church.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

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

## **GARDEN VOLUNTEERS**

Our Lady's church, Kempston is in need of a couple of volunteers to look after a section of the grounds there. It will involve a commitment to weeding and keeping tidy on a regular basis and can be done in your own time. Please contact Mary on 07708 264054.

### **Confessions – St Joseph's:**

**Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

**CLEANING:** S Masih, D Cummings

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Bino

**NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 4

**Children's Liturgy:** Jo & Raoul Bull

## **WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

The Northampton Diocese has a Women in Ministry Group. Web page [www.northamptondiocese.org/women-in-ministry](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/women-in-ministry). It has been active for a number of years and wants to invite the women of the diocese to their 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, and a chance to listen, pray, share, and reflect. For more information please email [helen.burgess@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:helen.burgess@northamptondiocese.org). All are welcome!

## **PARISH FORUM**

The next meeting of the Parish Forum is this Friday at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

## **PASTORAL MESSAGE - SAFEGUARDING**

Bishop David has written a Pastoral Message in relation to the recent Safeguarding Audit report for our diocese. Copies of this message can be found at the back of the church. Please take one.

## **ROSARY FOR SANCTITY OF LIFE**

Rosary for the Sanctity of Human Life will be recited this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass. All invited to join in prayer for this intention.

## **FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

The St Joseph's Friendship Circle will meet again this Wednesday in the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. All welcome to come along. Bring a friend.

## **PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE**

Parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup> April. No response, so far!

## **REFLECTION**

A couple of weeks ago Professor Peter Higgs, the theoretical physicist, died. He was famously known for his work on the mass of subatomic particles and his name was given to his discovery of the Higgs

boson particle, popularly known as the 'God particle'. This is the proven theory that explains the origin of mass; how the universe is put together, giving shape and size to everything. It reveals the infinite detail and complexity of the universe in which everything that is necessary for life holds together so perfectly in a rich and creative tension that enables things to grow and evolve. This doesn't happen by chance because everything in the universe is perfectly ordered e.g. the movements of planets and stars can be described by precise mathematical laws. Creation is ordered and is not the product of chance. As someone observed: *"The likelihood of life beginning by chance is about as great as a hurricane blowing through a scrap yard and assembling a Rolls-Royce!"* We are all familiar, I think, with the Big Bang theory of creation. But did you know that it was a Belgian Catholic priest, Fr Georgess Lemaitre, also a scientist, who in 1931 formulated this theory of a cataclysmic explosion of a small, primeval 'super atom' or singularity? What set off this explosion, if indeed that's how it all started, remains a mystery in cosmological terms. But from this supposed chaotic beginning came order and predictability pointing to, (from a faith perspective), a great creative mind that we call God. It's all rather fascinating, and what is more amazing is that we, human beings, can discern this purposeful action. We have the ability to reason and reflect. And that's not by chance, either; it is by design. God wants us to think, to discern, to explore and in so doing find him, that 'singularity' who is the cause of everything that exists. Pondering these things should inspire wonder and awe and indeed religious faith. In the pre-scientific era people were more open to this possibility but now seem somewhat impervious, as if scientific discovery has debunked religious belief and done away with the notion of God. Science can neither prove nor disprove the existence of God because God is outside the scope of empirical investigation. Indeed, if his existence could be proved in such a way, he wouldn't be God! God is transcendent and other, but makes himself known to the receptive mind and heart in the created order. The gift of faith sheds light on those mysteries that remain hidden even from the forensic examination of science. Which is why both disciplines, theology and science, can work together in this great adventure of discovery.

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

Offertory

St Joseph's £1358.12

Our Lady's £383.47

Thank you

Mission Appeal

St Joseph's £628.36

Our Lady's £62.90