

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

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

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

28th April 2024



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Tita Regina Barreda Ellorin
9.30am Teresa Conway, RIP
11.00am People of the Parish
6.30pm Desmind Davidson, RIP

Monday *St Catherine of Siena*

10.45am Eileen Cusack, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Johnny Cotter, RIP

Wednesday *St Joseph the Worker*

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Mr & Mrs Bino

Thursday *St Athanasius*

10.45am Kathleen Elliott, RIP

Friday *SS Philip & James*

10.45am Roger Dickens, RIP

Saturday *The English Martyrs*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Egan Family

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RITE OF ELECTION

Today, at the 11am Mass, those young people preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation in June will make a further commitment with a Rite of Election. Please keep them in prayer as they continue their journey of faith.

PARENTS MEETING

There will be a meeting of parents of the children preparing for their First Holy Communion this Thursday at 7.15pm in St Joseph's church. Your attendance is important.

CAKE SALE

We have a Cake Sale in aid of our parish project on Sunday 12th May after all Masses in the Guild Room and after the Vigil Mass in Our Lady's. Homemade cakes, preferably, please. They can be left at the presbytery or brought to Our Lady's on the day. Please label cakes with any allergy warnings.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

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. 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. All are welcome!

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

This Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the gift of peace.

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.

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.

1000 ROSARIES DEVOTION

This Prayer Devotion is this Saturday from 12.45pm to 5.15pm in the Reconciliation Chapel in St Joseph's church. All welcome for all or part of this time.

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.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies course available to anyone who wants to deepen their understating of the faith leading to a nationally recognise qualification. To find out more about the course contact Ann Collon email: educationserviceadmin@northamptondiocese.org or visit www.northamptondioceseschools.org.

RENTED ACCOMMODATION

A two bedroomed semi-detached is available for rent in Cotton End. If anyone is interested, please contact Rose on 07774 508903.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bridget Hoey. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

We are approaching the lovely month of May with spring well under way. It is also a month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, the mother of Jesus. St John's gospel tells us that the Word was God and that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn 1). How? Through the motherhood of Mary. She brought forth the Word of God, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. By God's own disposition, Mary holds a central place in his plan of salvation. Our information on Our Lady is very limited though. We know nothing of her birth or of her departure from this world and very little about her life. The New Testament is the only reliable source of information and its references to Mary are only scattered ones. We know that she was a pious Jewish girl living a life devoted to the practice of the Jewish Law. But God chose her especially and prepared her to be the mother of the promised Saviour and Messiah (Lk 1:26-38). Her greatness and importance does not lie in the mere physical fact that she is the mother of Jesus but in the fact that she welcomed the word of God and kept it: "*Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.*" (Lk 11:28). Because of the central truth of Mary's acceptance of God's word and her wholehearted and willing response to it she is given to us as an example and pattern of Christian living and holiness. She is seen by the gospels and by the theology of the Church as the fulfilment of God's work of preparation in the history of Israel for the coming of the Messiah. In Mary, the long work of purifying Israel for the coming of God has been completed. And so we hear her say, "*Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said be done to me.*" (Lk 1:38). Through her simple yes to God the great work of redemption begins. Mary was free to say no. How gracious God is to wait on her yes, giving him permission to act and bring about his plan of salvation. At the beginning of creation Eve was also free but she, along with Adam, said no. Mary's yes reverses that disastrous no of our first parents. Mary is the new Eve, the mother of all those who come to faith in Christ, the new Adam. She is the new Israel, the Church. The connection between Mary and the Church is no mere casual one. It is built into the very plan of God. Mary, the first to believe in Christ, is the prototype of the Church. (*to be continued*).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1481.55
Priests' Training Fund	St Joseph's £487.82

Our Lady's £237.24
Our lady's £99.49

Thank you