

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

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

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CORPUS CHRISTI

2nd June 2024



REFLECTIONS - THE BOOK

It has been suggested by some that I should collect my weekly reflections into a book. This has been done and the books are now available free at the back of the church. However, if you would like to make a donation towards our parish project, please place your offering in the wall-box by the door marked Parish Project. My thanks to Maggie Sloman in formatting these reflections ready for printing.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's are now available at the back of the church. Please take your new set with you, especially if you Gift Aid your offering, as we need to keep an accurate record. If you would like to Gift Aid your weekly donation please let Canon Seamus know. This is an easy way to increase our parish income at no extra cost.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Special Intention
	9.30am	Lee Conway, RIP
	11.00am	Dino Michele Lionetti, RIP
	6.30pm	Clive Reynolds, RIP
Monday	<i>St Charles Lwanga and Ugandan Martyrs</i>	
	10.45am	Alma & Roman Gregorec, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	All Saints
Wednesday	<i>St Boniface</i>	
	10.45am	In Honour of Our Lady
Thursday	<i>St Norbert</i>	
	10.45am	In Thanksgiving: Z Durrant
Friday	<i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	
	10.45am	Irena & Family
Saturday	<i>Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	
	10.45am	Bill West, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Natividad Davidson, RIP
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Tenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

MARY'S MEALS

There is a talk today about the work of Mary's Meals at all Masses. In addition, a Mary's Meals Recycling Box is now available at the back of the church in which to place donations of jewellery and watches, mobile phones, iPads, Tablets, Sat-navs, MP3 players, games consoles, cameras i.e. old film, digital and video. Maybe you have friends and neighbours who have such items. Mary's Meals can take them and turn them into cash. Please do not put anything else into the box.

MARY'S MEALS - AFTERNOON TEA

There will be an Afternoon Tea this Thursday in Our Lady's Meeting Room, Kempston, at 2.00pm, to raise funds for Mary's Meals. All are invited.

FIRST AID COURSE

Emergency First Aid at Work Course (conforming to HSE requirements), is being offered on Saturday 15th June from 9.00am to 4.00pm in the Guild Room of St Joseph's church (access from Church Street). Please contact Christopher Field on 07840 878455 for further details.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The next and final Confirmation Class, which includes a rehearsal in the church, is this Saturday at 2.30pm meeting in the Guild Room.

EVC UGANDA

The children at the main school this charity supports (St Matia Mulumba Primary School) have commenced a 100 mile 5-day walk to the Ugandan Martyrs Shrine on 27th May. They are seeking sponsorship for this to help pay for a new kitchen/dining hall at their school. If you would like to support their walk, donations can be made via the donate button on the EVC website or directly into the EVC account: Sort code: 20-05-74. A/c no: 73654214. Please mark your donation as '100 mile walk'. Thank you. Ted Fawcett.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

We 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.

THE GENERAL ELECTION

As Catholics, we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among the most important issues politicians should act on. The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see www.cafod.org.uk/encounter or www.svp.org.uk/encounter for more information.

REFLECTION

It was announced last week that Pope Francis will soon canonise Blessed Carlo Acutis, the young boy of 15 years who died of leukaemia in 2006 and who lived a remarkably holy life in his short lifetime, a life centred on the Eucharistic which he described as his "highway to heaven." He also developed a

website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles through the centuries. There is quite a lot of information about him on the Internet and various books, (Blessed Carlo Acutis: 5 steps to being a saint: CTS Publications). He said, *"You too, can be a saint. But you need to want it with your whole heart, and if you do not yet desire it, ask the Lord for it with insistence."* I imagine that's not a prayer that many would say! And yet that is what we are all called to be; it is the call of the gospel. The French novelist, Leon Bloy wrote: *"The only sadness in life is not to become a saint."* Carlo had this desire in him from an early age which he kept alive through daily prayer and especially attending daily Mass, when possible, and Eucharistic adoration: *"If you go out in the sun, you get a suntan, but when we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints."* And *"By standing before the Eucharist, we become holy."* On this feast of Corpus Christi, it is worth considering the wonderful gift of the Mass and the power of the Eucharist in our daily lives of faith. As Mass-going Catholics we are very familiar with this practice and devotion. But familiarity can, perhaps, dull the sense of amazement and awe that should fill our hearts. Here is God, in our very midst, with us as long promised: *"I will not leave you orphans. I will come back to you."* (Jn 14:18). In a unique way, Jesus has kept that promise in the holy Eucharist. We can, therefore, say that heaven is in every church because Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. When it comes to celebrating the Mass or just popping into a church for prayer, a sense of wonder should invade us because God is present; we come face to face with him. How fortunate we are that we have a God who is so close to us and who, whenever we receive communion, comes into us so that we become living tabernacles of his presence. Furthermore, we become the body of Christ through our union with him and with one another. In prayer before the Blessed Sacrament we can open our hearts to him and share what is laid up there. The more we do so the more sensitive we become to his presence and more natural and at ease will our prayer be, drawn to him by the bonds of love and friendship. Prayer will become something or rather someone to look forward to meeting each time. Along with Blessed Carlo we can say: *"Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!"* Herein is joy. Herein is our highway to heaven.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1736.88

Our Lady's £687.82

Thank you