

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

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

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 5th May 2024



FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

This Thursday is the feast of the Ascension of the Lord which recalls how Jesus, after his resurrection, returned to his Father in heaven. But he remains with us as promised, especially when we celebrate the Mass, to aid us on our journey to our homeland in heaven. He has gone before to prepare a place for us and so we keep our eyes and our hearts fixed on our eternal home whilst we make our pilgrim way on earth. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation** and the Mass times are here listed.

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. On your marks, get set, bake!

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Rosakutty & Paulose, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Bernard Atkins, RIP
	6.30pm	Janet Bavesbock, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Bill Conway, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Sophie Gmajner, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Fr T. Bernard, RIP

Thursday **Ascension of the Lord**

7.30am People of the Parish

10.45am Sylvia Blackburn, RIP

7.30pm Ronny Hewins, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Requiem: Bernard Atkins

Saturday **Votive Mass of Our Lady**

10.45am Matthew James Anthony, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Tim Harley, RIP

Thursday 7.30pm Francis Connolly, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: No liturgy until 19th May

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!

PLEASE NOTE

Because of the Cake Sale next Sunday there will be no Children's Liturgy that day.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The next Confirmation Class for our candidates is this Saturday at 2.30pm in the Guild Room.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection next Sunday for the Catholic Mass Media of Communications.

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.

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 understanding of the faith leading to a nationally recognised qualification. To find out more about the course contact Ann Collon at email: educationserviceadmin@northamptondiocese.org or visit www.northamptondioceseschools.org.

RENTED ACCOMMODATION

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

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Bernard Atkins and Bridget Hoey. Rest in peace.

REFLECTION (continued)

Mary was called upon to do in her own person what the Church has to do as a community: to empty herself in order to receive the Word of God. In utter humility and obedience, to bear the Son of God in her womb and to give him to the world. Each one of us is called to receive God's word and bring forth Christ in our lives, to bring him to others by our Christian living. In Mary, we see God's plan for each one of us i.e. through the redeeming work of his Son we are called to achieve the perfection he has already bestowed on Mary. At her first appearance in the gospel pages, Mary is called "*blessed among women*" (Lk 1:42). By this title we still acclaim her in our prayer. The reason for this, she explains herself, is not in anything she did on her own account but "*because he that is mighty has done great things in me.*" (Lk 1:49). His plan of salvation, of giving himself to men and women in order to draw them to himself, reached its climax in the incarnation, when the Word came to dwell among us. In that plan Mary played an essential part. This does not raise her to a divine level as some accuse us Catholics of doing. She remains, in her own words, the humble "*handmaid of the Lord.*" (Lk 1:38). But because of what God has done in her, she holds for all time and eternity a position among God's people which none other can claim. She obeyed God's call to become the mother of the Saviour, God made man. In this basic fact lies all her greatness and the reason for the honour we pay her. In this, too, lies our greatness and eternal destiny as the Lord himself testifies: "*Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it... for those who do the will of God are my mother, my brother and my sister.*" (Lk 8:21; Mt 12:50). This is the theology of Mary's place in the life of the Church. But we, as members of the Church, relate to her as a mother. She is a human being like ourselves and we are called to relate to her as such, regarding her as God's gift to aid us on our way on earth. And so, as a good mother, she will always look out for us and help us in our journey and remains especially close to us when we struggle or are confused and find it difficult at times just coping with daily life. She is always there for us, close at hand like any good mother. So call upon her in prayer, taking her hand as she leads us to her Son, supporting us along the path of life.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1562.80

Our Lady's £358.40

Thank you