

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

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

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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 12th May 2024



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS

First Holy Communion Mass this Saturday at 2.00pm in St Joseph's. This is the first of two such Masses and a special day for the children. Please keep them in prayer on this day as they receive the Lord in Holy Communion for the first time.

CAKE SALE

Cake Sale today in Our Lady's and in the Guild Room of St Joseph's after all Masses in aid of our parish project. Thanks to all who brought cakes for the sale.

VOCATIONS MASS & ROSARY

Mass and Rosary for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life will be offered on Wednesday 29th May in St Joseph's beginning with the Rosary at 10.15am followed by Mass at 10.45am. We pray for this intention and for our own vocation as disciples of the Lord. Refreshments afterwards in the Guild Room. All welcome.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	David Herbert Gilbert
	9.30am	Derek & Anna Ruff
	11.00am	Patricia Davies, RIP
	6.30pm	Bernard Atkins, RIP

Monday *Our Lady of Fatima*

10.45am Bill king

Tuesday *St Matthias*

10.45am Clare Ward

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am K.K. John, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Sylvia Blackburn, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Clare Ward

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Fred Spiniello, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mareta Mathew

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Pentecost Sunday

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

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!

SECOND COLLECTION

There is a second collection today 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.

CALLED & EQUIPPED

What is God calling you to do next? A year-long formation course is not for everyone, but covering the foundations of Catholic teaching alongside a personal spirituality, it might just be for you. We have 24 weekly online meetings together with an in-person foundations weekend and retreat day and cover prayer, spirituality, the Mass and sacraments, the scriptures, mission, Catholic social teaching and more. Explore the course here www.northamptondiocese.org/called-equipped and at our introductory webinar on 23rd May at 7.30pm.

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for Bernard Atkins and Bridget Hoey. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

REFLECTION

As a schoolboy in my teens, I underwent an eye test along with my classmates. It was recommended that I should see an optician for a proper examination, which I did. I was told I needed glasses, much to my reluctance. So, I got them and I was amazed how I was able to see for the first time with such clarity and focus. This was a revelation! I began to wear them for my lessons and looked particularly professorial when doing my chemistry classes in my white lab coat! But I did not get into the habit of wearing them all the time and so when I went for another eye test the optician asked why was I going around half-blind. From then on, I wore them permanently; they are a part of me now. Why am I telling you all this? Well, I like to compare this story to the gift of faith. Faith helps us to see things more clearly; we can see where we are going and understand better the direction of life. Faith gives us focus, clarity and insight. It brings things into shape relief so that our vision penetrates the mystery of life and its ultimate purpose, which is the vision of God. Like glasses, which can get smeared, obstructing our vision, we need to keep our faith cleansed and free of the smearing effects of sin. Regular Confession and daily prayer will keep our faith clear and strong. Abandoning the faith will cause blindness and we no longer see where we are going and so become lost and confused. No! We must hold on to the precious gift of faith so that it becomes an integral part of us without which we are alone in a confusing world of shadows and darkness. The wearing of glasses is because of a defect in one's vision. So it is with our human nature which is defective and fallen. We need help to compensate for this; we need a saviour who can lead us back to our original dignity and our ultimate destiny. Jesus is our guiding light through whom we begin to see clearly what others, without faith, cannot see. Going about half-blind is foolishness when we have the beautiful clarity of faith to aid us, to direct us. Essentially, faith is a relationship with Jesus. Working on that relationship will keep us in the light, preventing us from stumbling around. He is the way, he is the truth, he is the life. Our faith, our union with him is what defines us. Without him we would be lost, our vision impaired. Put on Christ, then, and follow him until we reach the unclouded clarity of heaven.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1611.79

Our Lady's £317.25

Thank you