

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

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

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

19th May 2024



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS

We have the second of our First Holy Communion Masses this coming Saturday at 2.00pm in St Joseph's. Please keep the children in prayer on this day as they receive the Lord in Holy Communion for the first time.

CAKE SALE

Thanks to all who contributed homemade and purchased cakes for the sale last Sunday. We had so many but they all went by the end of the 11am Mass. They were irresistible! We made a total of £386.70. Thank you so much. I think the Great British Bake-Off is calling!

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. If you would like to Gift Aid your weekly donation please let Canon Seamus know. This is an easy way to increase our income at no extra cost.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Aleyamma & Joseph T.V.
	9.30am	Paul Volske
	11.00am	Michael & Nora Macken, RIP
	6.30pm	Bernard Atkins, RIP
Monday		Mary, Mother of the Church
	10.45am	Natalja Smirova, RIP
Tuesday		Feria
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Wednesday		St Rita of Cascia
	10.45am	Michael Antony Ralph, RIP
Thursday		Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
	10.45am	Marion Brookes, RIP
Friday		Feria
	10.45am	Paddy Hoey, RIP
Saturday		St Bede the Venerable
	10.45am	Philip Allen, RIP
Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston		
Saturday	6.00pm	Mr & Mrs Di Gennaro, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: The Most Holy Trinity

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

ROSARY FOR LIFE

The Rosary for Life will be said this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass. All are invited to join in prayer to pray for the sanctity and protection of unborn human life.

FLOWER COLLECTION

There will be a second collection in St Joseph's next Sunday for flowers for the church.

NATIONAL EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

This event will take place at Oscott College, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday 14th September, to coincide with the International Congress taking place that weekend in Quito, Ecuador. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Canon Seamus know.

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 will 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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Alma Earl and Bridget Hoey. May they rest in the peace of Christ. Bridget's funeral Mass is this Monday at 11.45am in St Joseph's.

REFLECTION

There is a mental health condition known as 'Dissociative Identity Disorder' (DID), more commonly referred to as 'split personality disorder'. Its symptoms can vary from mild to extreme. It can be managed with a good, strong support system in place. In the practical life of faith, we can exhibit signs of DID, not as a mental condition, but as a disassociation between belief and practise, which at times can manifest itself as hypocrisy. Now no one wants to be accused of such and that would only be in extremis. But in little ways, we can identify certain traits in our behaviour which, although not always deliberate, form part of our human condition in our fallenness. Listen to the words of St Paul: "*I cannot understand my own behaviour. I fail to carry out the things I want to do, and I find myself doing the very things I hate... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body doomed to death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*" (Rm 7:15-24). Does that experience resonate with you? It does with me. St Paul gives us the remedy for this condition; 'the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.' So thank God for the sacraments of Confession and the Holy Eucharist! Realising his weakness, St Paul points to Jesus and his grace as the strong support system we need to help us manage this inherent weakness of our human nature. With this in place, we can live worthy lives of faith. But this 'split personality' condition does not occur just in the moral sphere but also in the daily living out of our lives of faith in the world. Do we carry into our daily living, our work, our everyday commerce and relationships, our Christian principles or do we leave them behind in the church on a Sunday? To compartmentalise our faith in this way is a dichotomy which cannot be long sustained if we want to live authentic Christian lives. This is the struggle and the challenge. Invoking the Holy Spirit in prayer each day, especially in difficult situations, will give us the courage and conviction to apply the values of our Catholic faith to our everyday lives. Belief and practise will dovetail and the authentic me will emerge. Yes, we will struggle and have our lapses, but as long as we keep our support system in place i.e. prayer, the sacraments and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will become the whole and holy people we are called to be.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1794.78
Catholic Mass Media	St Joseph's £371.58

Our Lady's £323.68
Our Lady's £45.62

Thank you