

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

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

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TENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9th June 2024



CONFIRMATION MASS

We welcome Bishop Peter Doyle back to our parish to celebrate the Confirmation Mass this Friday for 21 of our young parishioners. Bishop David was unable to be with us so Bishop Peter kindly offered to celebrate the Mass. Pray for these candidates as they receive this important sacrament to aid them in their on-going lives of faith in the Church.

REFLECTIONS - THE BOOK

I underestimated the number of books and so we ran out last Sunday. But all is not lost! I have ordered more which should be with us by next weekend. Thanks to all who donated to our parish project.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Marie McCloskey
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Alma Earl, RIP
	6.30pm	Bernard Atkins, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Johnson Family

Tuesday *St Barnabas*

10.45am Elsie, Kenneth, Kevin Petts

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Ian Roberts, RIP

Thursday *St Anthony of Padua*

10.45am Robert John Wright

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Egan Family

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndro

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Eleventh Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

MARY'S MEALS

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 and digital. Mary's Meals can take them and turn them into cash. **No** videos or DVDs, please. And please **do not** put anything else into the box. Thank you.

MASS IN KEYSOE

There will be a Mass celebrated in Keysoe Parish Church this Friday at 2.30pm to which 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.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection next Sunday at all Masses for the Day for Life, promoting the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

EVC UGANDA

The children at the main school this charity supports (St Matia Mulumba Primary School) have commenced a 100 mile five 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 BETHANY GROUP

The next Mass for people with disabilities and their families is Sunday 16th June at 3pm in Sacred Heart Church, Ashcroft Road, Stopsley, Luton, LU2 9AY. Refreshments afterwards.

REFLECTION

I like being a Catholic Christian because it feels so real and grounded and an affirmation of my humanity. Some religions exist on a different plane that denies that sense of groundedness, that down-to-earth appeal Christianity offers. They exist more on the purely spiritual esoteric level which can only be attained through various rituals and practices that are beyond most people. It is almost as if the material world is evil and we have to escape from it to experience our true and authentic selves.

This resembles the philosophy of Manichaeism which regards the material and, by extension, our human nature, as evil, something to escape from. Christianity opposes such a notion and instead affirms the goodness of the human body and this material world. We are not pure spirits like the angels; we are body and soul. As such, we live out our destiny, taking account of who we are in a world that was made for us by God. And when we arrive at that other world, also made for us, we will still retain our human nature and inhabit a material universe now transformed by the power of God, having obtained the glorious liberty of the children of God i.e. liberty from death and decay (cf Rm 8:19-22). The unique claim of Christianity is that the almighty, infinite and transcendent God became one of us, became a man in Jesus Christ. This is the astounding truth of our faith and the only world religion that makes such an outrageous claim! To some religions this is blasphemy and a real stumbling block to belief. But this our belief and in the light of this truth we live. It affirms me in my humanity, weak and fallible and sinful though it be. God was not ashamed to adopt our nature, to be close to us and so reveal the dignity of the human person as a child of God, destined to share forever his own divine life. He became small so that we might become great! It is easy to relate to such a God, one who walked our earth and lived our life. He is not remote and far distant. Remember, too, that Jesus retains his human nature, he didn't discard it when he returned to the Father at his ascension. It was in his humanity that he redeemed us by his cross and resurrection and he wants us to relate to him in that understanding. I like this understanding; it has a comforting appeal because it is real, affirming me as a human being knowing that God himself shares my humanity. What a grace and gift! What a sense of freedom and joy and indeed fun that I can rejoice as a child of God in the fullness of my being in this beautiful world, our playground but also our responsibility which extends to our fellow men and women. So live life, love life and celebrate it with thanksgiving. I can identify with Hilaire Belloc's delightful little verse:

'Where'er a Catholic sun doth shine, there's always laughter and a good red wine. At least I've always found it so. Benedicamus Domino.'

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1450.91

Our Lady's £409.96

Thank you

Mary's Meals

St Joseph's & Our Lady's £652.03