

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

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

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 16th June 2024



PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Thanks to all who answered the Parish Questionnaire. The responses are being collated at the moment. It will take a little time to do this and then we can present the findings.

REFLECTIONS - THE BOOK

We have received a new delivery of books which are now available free at the back of the church. As before, if you wish to make a donation to the parish project then please place your offering in the wall-box marked '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.

SAFEGUARDING

www.northamptondiocese.org/sgresources for our various policies on safeguarding.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Daniel Gormley, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Michael Norton, RIP
	6.30pm	Bernard S David, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Wednesday **Dedication of the Cathedral**

10.45am Vince Sabatemo

Thursday **St Alban**

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Friday **St Aloysius Gonzaga**

10.45am Jibee Varkey; Rinu Rajan

Saturday **SS John Fisher & Thomas More**

10.45am Joe Russell, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Rosemary Varghese

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Twelfth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals Recycling Box is now available at the back of the church 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 or foreign coins. And please **do not** put anything else into the box. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION

A second collection for the Day of Life, which helps to promote by way of information, the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

INDIAN BUFFET LUNCH

Our next fundraising event in aid of our parish project, 'Headway Bedford' will be an Indian Buffet Lunch at the home of John and Gillian Moore, 17 Colchester Way, Bedford, on Saturday 13th July at 12 noon at a cost of £7.50 per person. Further information will appear nearer the date, but please put the date in your diary now if interested.

THE THOMAS BECKET FESTIVAL

Bishop David will preside at Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Translation of the Relics of one of our diocesan patrons, St Thomas Becket, which will take place at 11am on Saturday 6th July. This event is open to all. The Festival will close with the Solemn Vespers of St Thomas at 4pm on Sunday 7th July. The Becket Lecture at 3pm on the same day. It will focus on the Venerable Ignatius Spencer who has strong links to Northampton and we look forward to listening to Fr Gerard Skinner who will deliver the lecture. Please visit www.northamptondiocese.org/relics for a full programme of events.

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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Burnage. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Along with being your parish priest, I also act as a judge on the diocesan matrimonial tribunal, dealing with nullity cases. What we always look for when a case is presented is what priority is given to the other in the marriage. Often we find that one or even both spouses live a single life-style within the union, giving little or no priority to the other in the relationship. Such a relationship has little chance of surviving and, if this has been the situation from the beginning and even before the marriage, it can be declared null and void because the emotional and affective needs along with the common life of the couple, have not been established. I give this as an illustration of what happens in our lives of faith if

we do not give priority to our relationship with God. It will become weak and the relationship will simply die. Our earthly lives are passing and could come to an end anytime. A sobering thought, especially as we tend to become overly engrossed in the affairs of the world which can lead to a neglect of our spiritual selves. Getting the balance right is where we need to concentrate our efforts. In so doing we can avoid what many suffer from these days; that sense of lostness along with mental stress causing ill health. Giving priority to that which matters, including the spiritual side of our nature, will help to avoid this and so give direction and purpose to our lives. Prioritising the spiritual is crucial in all this as people of faith i.e. time for personal prayer, attending Sunday Mass, Confession, the word of God, works of charity, no closing in on ourselves but openness to others. In all these different ways we encounter Jesus, our friend and our strength. If you truly love him you will always find ways of being with him. You know how it is that if you love someone very much you will always seek their company and do anything for the other. We should try exercising such priority, wanting to meet him, wanting to spend time with him. Jesus said, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these other things (i.e. the basics of life) will be given to you as well."* (Mt. 6:33). This promise of Jesus will relieve our anxieties about our daily needs and put into proper relief our lives lived in this passing world. Many there are who no longer walk with God as an intimate friend, their minds and hearts elsewhere. But he longs for our friendship, our company and a little of our time. It's like a true marriage bond where the husband and wife are not only spouses but best friends, at ease and happy and secure in each other's company. In that look of love and regard, there is a deep happiness and contentment and the strength to face life together. This is how it should be in our relationship with the Lord; giving him first place, and there is nothing to fear in so doing. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI: *"Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away and gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open wide the doors to Christ and you will find true life."* Open to him then, walk with him every day as good friends, at ease and content in each other's company.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1359.66

Our Lady's £279.52

Thank you