

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

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

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TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 23rd June 2024



REFLECTIONS - THE BOOK

The books have arrived from the printers and are available free at the back of the church. But as before, you can make a donation, if you wish, by placing your offering in the wall-box by the door marked 'Parish Project'.

YOUTH WORKER VACANCY

The Diocese is currently recruiting for a Youth Worker to join the Youth Ministry Office. The role will be for 35 hours per week and will include evening and weekend work. Full information for the position including how to apply can be found by visiting www.northamptondiocese.org/jobs. The closing date for applications is 10th July and interviews will take place on 15th and 16th July. The start date for the position will be Tuesday 10th September 2024. All candidates should complete an application form and email to hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

Rosary for the Sanctity of Life will be recited this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass. All invited to join in this prayer.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Betty Jones, RIP
	9.30am	Tanios Elias
	11.00am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Remiyas, RIP
Monday	Birth of St John the Baptist	
	10.45am	Tony Wensley
Tuesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Pierce Young, RIP
Wednesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Requiem: Eileen Burnage
Friday	St Irenaeus	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Saturday	Votive Mass of Our Lady	
	10.45am	Mary & Alan Wright, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm In thanksgiving: Rosemary Varghese

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: SS Peter & Paul

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

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 or foreign coins. And please **do not** put anything else into the box. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION

A second collection for Peter's Pence, in aid of the Church's work in the poorer parts of the world, will be taken next Sunday at all Masses.

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.

NEW LECTIONARY

A new translation of the Sunday and Weekday Lectionaries will be in use from Advent this year. Please visit the parish website for one person's impression on the recent study day on the Lectionary under the heading 'Faith Journeys'.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

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

REFLECTION

Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage. (Richard Lovelace: Poet). I quoted this line at Mass in the prison last week. It seemed to resonate with the men; they got it! Even though they were serving time, deprived of their liberty, I felt it important to remind them that they were still free within; their spirits and thoughts were free,

because there are those who do not cope well with prison life and suffer mentally, leading to extreme harmful behaviour at times. It's important, too, that we get it with regard to our own innate and inner freedom despite the restrictions of our personal circumstances. There are those, though, who are content to remain in a kind of self-imposed prison of prejudices, old resentments and hurts, unwilling to forgive and move on, mind sets that remain closed, a prison of cynicism and joylessness. Frozen hearts and frozen minds! It's difficult to move and change such people. Even God feels powerless. To a lesser extent it could happen to any one of us, preventing God from entering in, for whatever reason. This inhibits God's freedom to act in us and bring us to a closer relationship with him. Letting go of those things which can imprison us is essential if we are to grow, if we are to make progress in the journey of faith. It is easy and tempting to remain where we are and not move on, not break out, as it were. This is a grace we need to pray for, to break out of our self-imposed imprisonment which halts us in answering the call to holiness. *"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* (Jn 8:36). Jesus is the one who sets us free, especially from sin, which deceives us by promising freedom, when it simply controls and corrupts. Turning to him in prayer gradually pulls us away from the power of sin, especially if it is of an addictive type. One fights addictive sin by becoming addicted to prayer. The habit of prayer breaks the habit of sin and becomes that undercurrent of our spiritual lives that drags us away from its pull. We should not excuse ourselves by saying, 'I can't help it, it's the way I'm made.' We are not programmed to sin, which compromises our inner freedom; we have free will, free choice. We need to pray to the Holy Spirit for understanding and the courage to make what we know to be the right choice. Settling into a cosy corner of spiritual lethargy and compromise just doesn't work in the life of faith. We need to organise a break-out from the suffocating and inhibiting power of sin and that spiritual laziness which keeps us locked up, unable or unwilling to be set free. We are not made for such mediocrity, we are made for greatness, for horizons beyond this so small and temporary existence. Allow Jesus to lead us there, to the freedom of that fair land which awaits us, and so enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1828.69

Our Lady's £732.24

Thank you

Day for Life

St Joseph's £343.31

Our Lady's £63.00