

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

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

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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

7th July 2024



SEA SUNDAY

Next Sunday there will be a second collection for the Apostolate of the Sea, now known as Stella Maris. This charity exists to help seafarers who work at sea in often difficult and hazardous conditions. Please take an envelope for this purpose from the porch and fill in the Gift Aid part if you are able.

REFLECTIONS - THE BOOK

More books have been ordered and will be with us soon. Thanks to all who have donated to the parish project.

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. A variety of dishes will be available (curries, grilled meat and vegetable dishes). If interested, please place your name and phone number on the list at the back of the church today.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Mary Win Baker; Andrew McGuire
	9.30am	Colin Mellor, RIP
	11.00am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Jibee Varkey

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Tuesday **St Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions**

10.45am Kay Conway, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Johnson Family

Thursday **St Benedict**

10.45am Brigie McEvoy & Family

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Lizzie O'Connor

Saturday **Votive Mass of Our Lady**

10.45am Pauline Devaney, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Debbie Tobin, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifteenth 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. **No** videos or DVDs, please or foreign coins. And please **do not** put anything else into the box. Thanks.

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.

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.

EVC UGANDA SPONSORED WALK

20 children and 6 teachers from one of the schools EVC supports (St Matia Mulumba Primary), walked 100 miles to raise money towards the building of a kitchen/dining hall at their school. This is an incredible life achievement for these children and their teachers. If you would like to provide sponsorship funding for these children in recognition of what they have achieved, please make your donation to the EVC Bank Account: A/c No: 73654214. Sort code: 20 05 74 and give '100 mile walk' as a reference or, using the same reference, through the donation button on the EVC website. Thank you.

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 CARPET

New carpet tiles have been laid in the Reconciliation Chapel in St Joseph's. It would be a great help in keeping that area clean if parents could refrain from feeding your children with snacks during Mass, especially biscuits, which tend to get trampled into the carpet. Thank you.

HEALING SERVICE

Short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass today.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of David Lewarne. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

'The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth, one is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.' This line from the poem 'God's Garden', by Dorothy Frances Gurney, came to mind as I was sitting in my sister's garden on my day off. Well-kept but not over tended. Birds coming and going, bees and other tiny winged creatures flying about, attracted by the flowers and the lavender, with the sun shining on all the different colours on display. A peaceful setting away from the noise of traffic which usually surrounds me on Midland Road! An invitation to just be still and enjoy the fragrance of nature. The beginning of the human story was in a garden, the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve walked with God in harmony with creation and one another until that sin spoiled it all! We have sadly inherited this condition and it will not be fully and perfectly restored until we come into the garden of God in heaven. But as we live now in the garden of this world, we have a duty to care for it and to work for its betterment. Especially so in trying to establish a harmonious relationship with one another. Sin fractures and divides as we are only too well aware. Love and compassion brings healing and wholeness. This the work of grace which we must call upon in prayer, allowing God to walk with us once more. That natural intimacy was lost at the Fall. Jesus came into this fallen, fractured world to help restore it. If, therefore, we cooperate with him, we can build a beautiful garden of the soul where *'one is nearer to God's heart.'* And like any well-kept garden, this requires diligent hard work, keeping an eye on ourselves, not neglecting our spiritual growth, getting rid of the dandelion of sin and watering with prayer and the sacraments. Peace and harmony will then return to our lives. The absence of peace is the absence of God, who only wants to share our lives and enjoy our company. Yes, he desires our company! *'Rejoicing in his world and delighting in the children of men.'* (Prov. 8:31). Let us not deny him this who came looking for Adam in the Garden. Let us not hide from God (cf. Gen 3:9). I like watching those gardening programmes where an unpromising piece of land is transformed by a master gardener. God is the one who wants to transform us and walk with us again, delighting in our company and the work of his hands.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1508.34

Our Lady's £167.50

Thank you

Peter's Pence

St Joseph's £431.40

Our Lady's £41.15