

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

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

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

14th July 2024



SEA SUNDAY

Today is Sea Sunday and there is 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 by next weekend. Thanks to all who have donated to the parish project.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

There will be pilgrimage to Walsingham for the Sanctity of Life on Saturday 3rd August led by our Bishop, David Oakley. Coach from Our Lady's Kempston 8.30am and from St Joseph's at 8.50am. Cost £12. Under 18 free. If you would like to book a seat, please contact Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Special Intention
11.00am Vincent Lappin, RIP
6.30pm Danny & Ann Ferry

Monday *St Bonaventure*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Tuesday *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*

10.45am Dick Gardner, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Ann Glackin

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Kora Thomas, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Edmond Connolly, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: None until September

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.

CHARISMATIC DAY OF RENEWAL

The Diocesan Charismatic Renewal Team is organising a Day of Renewal at Our lady of Lourdes Church, St Paul's School Campus, Moorgate, Leadenhall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5NA on Saturday 27th July led by Sue and Charles Whitehead. For more information contact: cdscnorthampton@gmail.com or text: 07725 200866.

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.

CHINESE MASS

There will be a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph Ha of Hong Kong on Wednesday 24th July at St Edward the Confessor Church, Milton Keynes, starting with Rosary at 6pm followed by Mass. There will be a bring-and-share meal afterwards. For more details contact 07393 582776 or mk.chinese.catholic@gmail.com.

REFLECTION

One of the distinguishing features of our Catholic faith is the strong message that human life is sacred from conception to natural death. This is not reflected in our laws, though, where abortion is permitted up to 24 weeks, with an attempt to extend this up to birth. Similarly, there is a growing call to legalise euthanasia. The culture of death is prevalent, especially in Western societies. I was horrified at the time of the Irish referendum on abortion, watching the tv news, where a large number of young women were cheering with delight that they now have permission to kill their unborn children. Chilling! Archbishop Martin of Armagh well observed when he commented: *"I am deeply saddened that we appear to have obliterated*

the right to life of all unborn children...we have effectively decided that some human lives - in this case the lives of the unborn - are less significant and deserving of protection than others. We have elevated the right to personal choice above the fundamental right to life itself! It remains as important as ever to affirm the sanctity of all human life and that the direct and intentional taking of the life of any innocent human being is always gravely wrong." I was recently called out to the hospital to bless a stillborn baby. I was moved to see the mother tenderly holding him close. She recognised that what she was holding was not a foetus or just a bundle of cells, as some would have it, but her little son. Not a potential human being but a human being with potential. The so called pro-choice lobby would deny this and the only choice they offer is death! How is it that a civilised society has come to this? As I have often quoted, *'once the Creator is forgotten, the creature is lost sight of as well.'* To destroy innocent human life is a direct attack upon the sovereignty of the Creator and a denial of the fundamental right to life, a right which is totally independent of the wishes of others or the judgement of society. In the world of nature there are many protected species but this protection does not include the unborn child. And yet, as human beings, we are a fundamental part of the natural world; we are not separate from it. We are in a sorry place where human life is regarded as disposable in this way. As Christians, united with other faiths which share our values in this matter, we must defend the defenceless, the most vulnerable, and be a voice for the voiceless. If we can't get this right then nothing else will be right. Death is not the solution to the difficulties of human existence. We are called (and this applies especially to the medical profession), to be ministers of life, not instruments of death. In God nothing is definitively lost and so these little ones who were denied the gift of life are now enjoying the gift of eternal life. And most importantly, forgiveness is offered to those who seek it in God's mercy. The battle for the sanctity of life continues. In the words of Pope Francis, *"Our defence of the innocent unborn needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of human life, which is always sacred and demanding of love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development."*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1845.65

Our Lady's £446.24

Thank you