

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

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

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 21st July 2024



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 St Joseph's at 8.30am and from Christ the King at 8.50am. To book a seat contact Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054. Please note the change of pick up times. Also, please add your name and phone number to the list at the back of the church if you wish to go.

REFLECTIONS - THE BOOK

The new books are now available at the back of the church. They are free but if you would like to donate to our parish project please place your offering in the wall-box marked Parish Project. Thank you.

INDIAN BUFFET LUNCH

Thanks to all who attended the Indian Buffet Lunch last Saturday which raised £165 for our parish project. Thanks especially to John and Gillian Moore for opening their home to us and for preparing a splendid repast.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Incoronata Ricciardella, RIP
9.30am Eamon Caherty, RIP
11.00am Daniel Reddy, RIP
6.30pm Michael Turner

Monday *St Mary Magdalene*

10.45am Joey & Collin

Tuesday *St Bridget of Sweden*

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Fernando

Wednesday *St Sharbel Makhluf*

10.45am Requiem: David Lewarne

Thursday *St James, Apostle*

10.45am Alan & Mary Wright, RIP

Friday *SS Anne & Joachim*

10.45am Clement Francis, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Varghese Parakkadan, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Betty Walsh, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

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.

ROSARY FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Rosary for the Sanctity of Life will be recited after the 10.45am Mass this Saturday. Please join in praying for the protection of unborn life.

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.

YOUTH WORKER VACANCY

The Northampton diocese is currently recruiting for a Youth Worker to join the Youth Ministry Office. The role will be 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 will be 10th August. Interview dates to be confirmed. The start date for the position will be Tuesday 10th September 2024. All candidates should complete an application form and email it to: hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org

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: mk.chinese.catholic@gmail.com or 07393 582776.

RECEIVING FROM THE CHALICE

When receiving Holy Communion from the chalice, please take it in both hands, raised it to your lips and take only a small sip from it. Please **do not** pour into your mouth as this risks spilling the Precious Blood onto your clothes or onto the floor. Thank you.

LATIN MASS

The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter will begin saying Mass in the Traditional Latin Rite in Our Lady's, Kempston, each weekday, Monday to Saturday, from 22nd July. Times: Mon 9.30am, Tues 6.30am, Wed 7.15pm, Thurs 9.30am, Fri 11.30am, Sat 11.30am.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the soul of David Lewarne.

REFLECTION

It was Allastair Campbell, adviser to the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who famously said, "*We don't do God.*" It's not seen as a vote winner, at least in British politics. We, as Catholics do "*do God.*" But what do we mean by that? Doing God is not confined to Sunday Mass, it's something which defines us, something we should carry into the world and witness to. It should colour our understanding of it and one's place in it. Something that gives meaning to everything; giving purpose and direction. It makes life exciting! Faith in God rails against the idea that we live our few short years and then we die. Our Christian faith sheds light on the mystery of life itself and our created world. We have a destiny which stretches into eternity and this is great news, it's the Good News of the gospel! Without this clear perspective, we live in the shadows. Politics has a very secular and utilitarian approach to and understanding of life. Faith opens up the vast beauty and mystery of our lives and is the undercurrent of all that we do. And it's not something just confined to going to church. It involves witnessing without apology to what we believe as Catholics and, in so doing, we render society a service and those whose lives we touch. Without this gift of faith, life would be mighty boring, just drifting in a world which is directionless and devoid of meaning. We are called to invest it with meaning, giving hope and light in the darkness. Joy is the lodestar of the believer; that which attracts and is life-giving. Doing God is good for us, keeps us buoyant, keeps us balanced, resistant to the tyranny of the immediate, puts things in proper perspective. The devil loves us to become enmeshed in the busyness of life, drumming God out of it, no place for him anymore. Be careful! Tis a trick to deceive! Thinking that we can manage without him. We have to keep doing God no matter what. The alternative is a soulless existence, robbing us of joy. It takes courage to keep believing and so we need to pray for it so that we can "*give an account of the hope that is in our hearts.*" (1Pet 3:15). Simply living the values of the gospel is all we need to do most times. There will be other times when doing so will bring us into conflict with those who oppose us. We need to remain resolute in our convictions, testifying to the truth. Doing God, then, is the very fabric of our lives, the ultimate meaning to them.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1496.37

Our Lady's £703.93

Thank you

Stella Maris

St Joseph's £520.30

Our Lady's £81.85