

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

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

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

4th August 2024



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Merin Bino: Thanksgiving
	9.30am	Mary Orr, RIP
	11.00am	Harry Watling
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday		<i>Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major</i>
	10.45am	Tom Costello, RIP
Tuesday		<i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i>
	10.45am	Fr Galeji Mulupuri
Wednesday		<i>Feria</i>
	10.45am	Rosemary Mitchell
Thursday		<i>St Dominic</i>
	10.45am	Joan & Douglas Martin, RIP
Friday		<i>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Saturday		<i>St Lawrence</i>
	10.45am	Johnson Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	David Sage
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

STRAWBERRY & CREAM TEA

Our next and final fundraising event for our parish project, Headway Bedford, is a Strawberry and Cream Tea at the home of Derek and Anna Ruff, Carlton Cottage, Chequers Hill, Wilden MK44 2QQ, next Sunday at 3.00pm. All welcome.

FIRST COMMUNION FORMS

The parents of those children wishing to make their First Confession and Holy Communion next year are asked to collect an enrolment form from the sacristy after Mass. Children must be in Year 3 or above.

BEDFORD FOODBANK

Items required: tinned ham, luncheon meat, stew, meatballs (beef or chicken). These can be placed in the green bin at the back of the church and in the food collection box in the porch in Our Lady's, Kempston. Thanks to all who contribute to the Foodbank.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

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, DVDs, or foreign coins, please. And please **do not** put anything else into the box. Thanks.

LITTLE WAY HEALING OUTREACH DAY

At St Joseph's on Saturday 14th September beginning with the Rosary at 10.15am, followed by Mass at 10.45am, exposition and confessions with lunch at 12.30pm. Bring a packed lunch. In the afternoon we continue with individual prayer for healing, praise and teaching led by Fr Laurence Brassill and Mrs Pauline Edwards. Concluding at 4.00pm. Join for part or all of the day.

JESUS YOUTH

Jesus Youth UK presents the 2024 National Teens Conference, *Ignite*, to be held from 23rd to 26th August at Worth Abbey. It is open to those who are in Year 9 to 13 as of September 2024. The four-day programme is planned with music and theatre sessions, testimonies, fellowship and fun along the way. A talk will be given at the Masses today about this upcoming event. For more information email: teensministry@jesusyouth.co.uk or contact Jitsy on 07384 579728.

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

SPUC PETITION

BPAS, one of Britain's biggest abortion providers, has identified that the government's punitive two-child Universal Credit limit is "a significant factor" in many women deciding to abort their child. The two-child credit cap is causing unnecessary suffering and is not worthy of a caring society. There are petition cards in the porch calling on the Prime Minister to end the two-child family credit cap, if you would like to fill in your details and post to SPUC. Thank you.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Thundercliffe. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

REFLECTION

We are now enjoying high summer, my favourite time of the year. Things are a little more relaxed with many going on holiday, the routine of life slowing down a little and the weather invites us to venture out, if we are fortunate enough to be graced by plenty of the sun! Summer lends itself to a more casual and relaxed approach to our lives with

extended hours of daylight offering more opportunities to plan and do things. Perhaps among such planned activities, time given to a deepening of our faith through reading (scriptural/spiritual), along with prayer, can be figured into our day. Taking advantage of those opportunities as they present themselves will help to us to draw closer to the Lord and invigorate our spiritual self. Efforts to do so may seem easier this time of the year but how do we carry it over into the rest of the year? Well, start slowly and gently, grabbing bite-sized moments of prayer and reflection, and dipping into the scriptures and spiritual reading. If we persevere in this it gradually becomes habit-forming. Sometimes when my day is so crowded, I am unable to give extended time to prayer. I feel something is missing when this happens but I'm too tired to do anything about it except to say a quick good night to the Lord before I adopt the supine position (sleep). However, the Lord understands; even he needed rest and sleep. So do not feel too guilty when you cannot always give the time you would like to the Lord; life simply takes over at times. What he wants from us, though, is a spirit of perseverance; just keep trying to make some space for him, and if he sees us making a bit of an effort, it will very much please him. And strangely enough, he will often provide us with opportunities to spend time with him; we just have to recognise them as they come our way and take hold of them, resisting the urge to pick up the phone to view the latest social media post or turning on the tv. Instead, enter into his presence for those few moments in prayer or scriptural reading. We always make time for the important things in life. Make this an important item in your busy day. We live in a transitory world but what remains is the higher self and the spiritual. These survive and it is to such that we should give our attention amidst the demands of our so temporary existence. We are made for the eternal but the world can easily blot out this truth and it becomes a rather vague notion lodged at the back of our minds. We need to guard against this happening. A further help would be to place images of our Catholic faith in our homes; pictures, icons, statues, the cross, holy water, putting the Bible in a visible place. We are creatures of sense and we need visible reminders of our faith. Enjoy your summer and don't forget the One who created the times and the seasons.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1585.74

Our Lady's £464.15

Thank you