

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

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

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 11th August 2024



STRAWBERRY & CREAM TEA

This afternoon at 3.00pm for our parish project, Headway Bedford, at the home of Derek and Anna Ruff, Carlton Cottage, Chequers Hill, Wilden MK44 2QQ. All welcome.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

This Thursday is the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are listed.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Merin Bino
9.30am People of the Parish
11.00am Walter Higgins, RIP
6.30pm Michael Turner

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Wednesday *St Maximilian Kolbe*

10.45am Zofia & Alan

Thursday *Assumption of Our Lady*

7.30am Kathleen Canavan, RIP

10.45am Tony Harper

7.30pm People of the Parish

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Fernando Family, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Young Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Nora O'Callaghan, RIP

Thursday 7.30pm Tom McCarthy, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Twentieth 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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Thundercliffe, Kathleen Canavan, Patricia McManus and Ken Blackburn. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

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. 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. For more information email: teensministry@jesusyouth.co.uk or contact Jitsy on 07384 579728.

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.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord, Prince of Peace, we appeal to your boundless love and mercy. In the face of violence and turmoil in our country, strengthen our resolve to work for reconciliation and peace within our communities. Help us not to harden our hearts, to redouble our efforts to welcome the stranger and to reach out to those in need. Change the hearts and minds of those who seek to fuel unrest and bring us all to live in your kingdom of justice, peace and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTION

I have been watching snippets of the Olympic Games, admiring the skill and athleticism of the participants. They are all competing to win, of course, especially a gold medal. Many years of hard

work have gone into honing their skills, getting ready for the day they can finally compete, in the hope of winning their prize. The Games remind me of that passage from St Paul's letter: "*All the runners at the stadium are trying to win, but only one of them gets the prize. You must run in the same way, meaning to win. All the fighters at the games go into strict training; they do this to win a wreath that will wither away, but we do it for a wreath that will never wither.*" (1 Cor 9:24-25). In a sense, we are all athletes, competing for the same prize of eternal life, the wreath that will never wither. So, like athletes, we are now in training but, at the same time, we are already in the competition, in the contest of faith by which we attain the prize. Every day we are called to enter this contest, and so to keep fit, we need to exercise our spiritual muscles. How? Daily prayer, the nourishment of the Mass, the word of God, the healing power of Confession, the teaching of the Church for guidance and the companionship and support of one another. Also, the friendship of those who have completed the course; the saints. They, too, urge us on in the great contest of faith. Every athlete has a good team behind him or her; supporting, encouraging, training. So with all this back-up how could we not win the coveted prize? But it still remains for us to avail ourselves of all these helps to our endeavours. We must be motivated and really want to win that prize. Often the problem is that we can lose our focus and become a little careless and so put off the effort and sacrifice involved in all this. And it does take effort and a certain discipline if we are to attain the goal. Listlessness and boredom can creep in and we give up the effort, settling for mediocrity. But mediocrity never wins prizes! We must have a hunger to win! We must keep spiritually fit and motivated. Prayer is the key to keeping alive that sense that we are made for greatness, we are destined to stand on the winner's podium, claim our prize and be acclaimed. Spiritual athletes are what we are called to be; strong, determined and excited. Fit for the race of faith that leads to the glorious prize of eternal life; to be presented with a wreath that will never wither. Then we can say with St Paul, "*I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord will give me on that Day.*" (2 Tim 4:7-8).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1523.61

Our Lady's £299.45

Thank you