

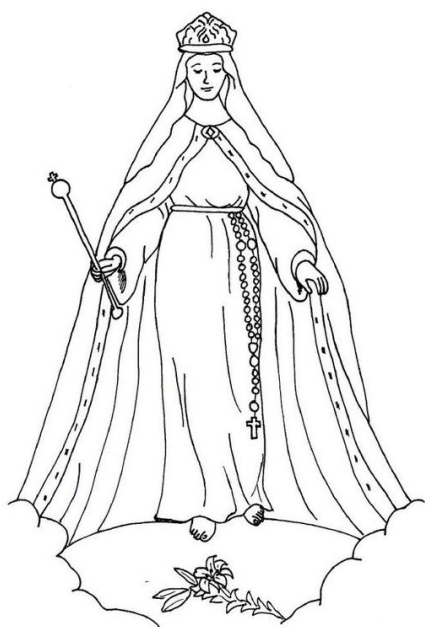
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 18th August 2024



THANK YOU

Thanks to all who attended the Strawberry and Cream Tea last Sunday at the home of Derek and Anna Ruff, which raised £585. Thanks especially to Anna and Derek for holding this enjoyable afternoon and all those who donated cakes and prizes for the raffle.

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.

TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASS

As from next Sunday after the 11am Mass in St Joseph's, tea and coffee will be served in the Guild Room to which all are invited. Its success will very much depend on you supporting it. See it as opportunity to meet other parishioners and share some social time together.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Ken Blackburn, RIP
	9.30am	Seamus McMorrow, RIP
	11.00am	Liam & Ann Connolly, RIP
	6.30pm	Saramma Joseph, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Mary Thundercliffe
Tuesday	<i>St Bernard</i>	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Pope St Pius X</i>	
	10.45am	Keith Dyer, RIP
Thursday	<i>The Queenship of Mary</i>	
	10.45am	John Walsh, RIP
Friday	<i>St Rose of Lima</i>	
	10.45am	John William Partridge, RIP
Saturday	<i>St Bartholomew</i>	
	10.45am	Alberto Amado

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Chaston & Bolongaita Families, RIP
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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, A Daniel, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-First Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until September

MARY'S MEALS

Thanks to all who donated items for the Mary's Meals initiative. This appeal has now ended and the items will be sent to raise cash for the charity.

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 IN KEYSOE

Mass will be celebrated in Keysoe Parish Church this Thursday at 3.00pm. All are invited.

LEPRA APPEAL

There will be an Appeal at all Masses for the charity, Lepra, which works to support leprosy sufferers. There will be a second collection for this purpose.

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.

QUIZ NIGHT

We are invited to a Quiz Night at Christ the King Church Hall, Harrowden Road, on Saturday 14th September starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 which includes Fish & Chips. Bring your own drink. For tickets contact Rachel Kirkham on 314093 after 6.00pm.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Thundercliffe, Kathleen Canavan, Patricia Chittenden and Ken Blackburn. May they rest in the peace of Christ. Kathleen Canavan's funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 28th August at 1.00pm in St Joseph's.

REFLECTION

Walking through the town centre, I sometimes come across a preacher or two proclaiming boldly the word of God in the hope that someone might be listening, or a group of young people joyfully singing gospel songs and handing out leaflets. Street evangelisation! 'Tis good to see and I admire their faith and bravery in doing so. I don't know

how effective it may be, as people passing by are caught up in their chores and business and not very receptive. Still, it's good to see such witness in the public arena, which is sadly devoid of any sense of the divine. We no longer, as a society, have a sensibility to that other world and dimension of human nature. It all gets rather lost in the commerce of life. It's important for us Christians not to become desensitised, but develop a receptivity to the presence of God. Not easy, I know, but possible by giving time to our interior life where God is to be found if we sincerely seek him. We come back to the importance of prayer fed by a deeper understanding of the scriptures which, in effect, is God's love letter to humanity. In them is revealed the great heart of God beating for us, especially in the person of Jesus Christ. The best way to get to know him is in the gospels. And they are not just words on a page but a message that brings life. As it says in the letter to the Hebrews, '*the word of God is alive and active.*' (Heb 4:12). If we receive his word with a listening heart it will change us, bringing hope and life, and a bright light in the darkness of our world. When we come to Mass, which is when most of us hear the scriptures, we do so with distracted minds, I'm sure. All kinds of things buzzing around in our heads, drowning out the word of God. Hence the need to come to Mass ready to receive his word, and this is when we pray for a listening heart especially in those few moments before Mass begins. Importantly, too, is the practice of reading the scriptures privately. It just takes a few moments, for example, to read a chapter of the gospels each day and pause a little to allow the word to find a place in our hearts which can become a focus for our prayer and a guiding word for our day. We will become familiar then with the gospel story and most importantly with the person of Jesus. This is known as 'Lectio Divina', divine reading. A good and fruitful practice. You know, to make any progress in the spiritual life and to grow in our faith we do have to make an effort and to persevere. God will come to our aid but we must do our part and so allow his grace to begin to work in us, bringing us to a deeper awareness of him. We will then begin to see with clearer eyes the mystery of life; its purpose and destiny. The scriptures act as our guide, a light to enlighten our way, and our prayer, which grants entrance to God's heart.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1582.13

Our Lady's £376.35

Thank you