

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

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

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 25th August 2024



LOURDES MEETING

Those travelling on the pilgrimage to Lourdes on 2nd September are invited to a meeting in the Guild Room this Thursday at 7.30pm. Access from Church Street.

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. Forms must be completed and handed in by Sunday 29th September.

TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASS

We are invited to Tea and Coffee after the 11am Mass today in the Guild Room. Come and share some social time together.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am George Hosang
9.30am People of the Parish
11.00am Mathew Cherian, RIP
6.30pm Marie Peachey, RIP

Monday *Blessed Dominic Barbarie*

10.45am Domingas Amado

Tuesday *St Monica*

10.45am Varghese Parakkadan, RIP

Wednesday *St Augustine*

10.45am Christian Jacob-Santhosh

Thursday *The Passion of St John the Baptist*

10.45am Sebastian Mathew

Friday *SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward*

10.45am Sam Wahbi, RIP

Saturday *St Aidan & the Saints of Lindisfarne*

10.45am Mary Thundercliffe, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mr & Mrs DiGennaro, 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, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None until September

PARISH PROJECT - THANK YOU

For the past 12 months we have raising funds for the charity Headway Bedford. Through your generosity we have raised £6341.03. This amount will be presented to the charity this week. Many thanks for your generous giving and yearly support of our parish projects. A new project will be adopted for the coming 12 months and will be announced shortly.

LEPRA APPEAL

There is an appeal at all Masses today for the charity, Lepra, which works to support leprosy sufferers. There is 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.

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.

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Moloney, Kathleen Canavan, Ken Blackburn and John McGarr. 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

"I tell you solemnly, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 18:2). Rather alarming! *"you will never enter the kingdom of heaven!"* We need to sit up and learn what this teaching means for our salvation. I have written and spoken about this lesson of our Lord's before but I think it's worth repeating because this is a central tenet of the spiritual life on which our eternal salvation depends. It's not an easy lesson to learn but learn it we must. To be a child, in this context, has nothing to do with maturity of years, but all about how we relate to God. It's not a call to childishness but to be childlike. That means we relate to God with love and a trusting confidence in his love and care for us which puts us in a right relationship with him as our Father and we as his children. It is letting go of the tendency to want to be the God of our lives without

any reference to him. This blocks him out and, therefore, renders him powerless in what he wants for us and does for us. It is the old sin of pride, the sin of our first parents who set themselves up as gods. Elsewhere in the gospels, Jesus exclaims, *"I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children."* (Mt 11:25). God doesn't hide himself from clever people but only from those who are smug in their cleverness and have a disdain towards those who have faith. We are also told in the scriptures that, *"God resists the proud and will always favour the humble."* (1 Pet 5:5). Living in trust, joy, simplicity and love of God on whom we depend for our very existence is the correct disposition of mind and heart that gives us access to God's heart as his children. Laying down the law before God will not endear us to him. He remains silent before such hubris. Admitting our weakness and helplessness is the road to the kingdom of heaven; it is to be childlike, and we will begin to experience that carefree joy of the child who knows that he or she is loved, cared for and protected. This admission of our dependence on God is a real breakthrough in the spiritual life and the pathway to greatness: *"Whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* (Mt 18:5). It opens up the floodgates of God's mercy and grace. St Therese of Lisieux discovered this secret and built her whole spirituality on this truth and became one of the greatest and best-loved saints in the Church. So, instead of the pride that can freeze God out of our lives, we instead cast ourselves, in the spirit of a child, into the enfolding arms of God's mystery. We become little and hide ourselves in the womb of God's love, where we can be at peace, feel secure and enjoy the wonderful gift of life as it should be enjoyed under God. Letting ourselves go in an act of self-surrender to God is at the heart of Christ's teaching. Only then can we experience the freedom and joy of the children of God which, in effect, is the foretaste of the kingdom of heaven.

'Enough for me to keep my soul tranquil and quiet like a child in its mother's arms, as content as a child that has been weaned...rely on the Lord now and forevermore.' Psalm 132

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1506.72
Assumption	St Joseph's £418.52

Our Lady's £203.08
Our Lady's £92.25

Thank you