

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

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THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

3rd November 2024



BLESSING OF GRAVES

The annual blessing of graves will be as follows: Foster Hill Road today 3rd Nov. Norse Road 10th Nov. Kempston 17th Nov. Each service will begin at 2.30pm with prayers near the entrance to the cemetery followed by the blessing of individual graves.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

If you wish to include the names of your deceased loved ones in the daily Masses during the month of November, then please list them and place the list in an envelope provided at the back of the church, and return it to the presbytery or the church.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards and other religious items are on sale at the back of the church in both churches from today onwards. Profits from the sale in aid of our parish project, Mary's Meals.

INDIAN MEAL NIGHT

Our next fundraising event is an Indian Meal Night on Tuesday 19th November. Venue to be decided. Book the date.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Paul Goodstadt, RIP
9.30am Daphne Smith, RIP
11.00am Marion Flood, RIP
6.30pm Holy Souls

Monday *St Charles Borromeo*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Saturday *Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

7.30am Maria & Tedor Bazylewicz, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Lisa Joanne Newell, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I love you, Lord, my strength.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None this Saturday

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ngoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

The Mothers' Prayers Group will meet this Monday after the 10.45am Mass. All mothers welcome to pray for their children.

EVC UGANDA TALK

There will be a brief talk about the charity EVC Uganda, which started in this parish ten years ago, at all Masses next weekend. The charity provides a future through education for some of the poorest children in the world. For more information about the charity go to www.evcuganda.org.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Des Orr, Daphne Smith and Bob Mitchell. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Those children enrolled in our First Confession and Communion Classes are reminded that the classes start this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room at St Joseph's. Access from Church Street. All must attend, please.

PARISH QUIZ

Thanks to those who attended the Parish Quiz last Friday which raised £119 for our parish project.

OPEN MEETINGS

We had our first meeting on the parish questionnaire feedback recently and propose a second meeting to explore one particular area at the moment, namely building parish community. You are invited to attend and share your ideas on Thursday 7th November in Our Lady's, Kempston at 2.30pm and on the same day in St Joseph's Guild Room at 7.30pm. If you cannot attend but would like to become involved, please contact me on the parish email. Please view the feedback here: www.stjosephsbedford.org/pilgrims-of-hope.

LATIN MASS

There will be a Latin High Mass in the Tridentine Rite on Saturday 9th November at 12 noon in St Joseph's church in reparation for abortion. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome. There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during Confessions this Saturday.

REFLECTION

A phrase sometimes used by those who doubt the existence of God is, *'Seeing is believing'*. The logic here is that if it can't be observed then it doesn't exist! The following is a little illustration that challenges that premise. *'A man mounts the platform at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, London, determined to shake the faith of believers in God by a simple argument: "People tell me that God exists, but I can't see him. People tell me that there is life after death, but I can't see it. People tell me that there is judgement to come, but I can't see it. People tell me that there is a heaven and a hell, but I can't see them." He stood down and then another man went up to the platform to speak but needed help to do so. He began: "People tell me that there is green grass all around, but I can't see it. People tell me that there is blue sky above, but I*

can't see it. People tell me that there are trees nearby, but I can't see them. You see, I am blind." As people of faith we see what others cannot see. We have eyes of faith which penetrate to the mystery of life and its ultimate meaning. Faith is a gift from God that we may see and understand and respond to what has been revealed. It is a gift that is offered to all if we sincerely want it. It is not denied to the searching heart. And that's the point; we must really desire it. This gives God an entrée to such a person's soul and there plants the seed of faith. And like any earthly seed, it needs time to grow and mature. This is when we look after it with prayer, the sacraments, the word of God in the scriptures and the exercising of that same faith in loving service, goodness, compassion and charity towards others. In turn, we begin to see more clearly the purpose and direction of our lives here on this earth, giving meaning to them and which is accompanied by a real sense of hope and joy despite the inevitable difficulties and problems we all encounter from time to time. We are familiar with that other saying: *'There are none as blind as those who do not want to see.'* This is why Jesus accused the Pharisees in the gospel of being blind guides. They refused the evidence of their eyes in witnessing the miracles of Jesus even to the extent of attributing the power working in him to the devil! Some people prefer the darkness to the light! We are called to live in the light of truth which guarantees us freedom: *"The truth will make you free."* (Jn.8:32). Jesus is the light of the world and so we ask him in prayer to rescue us from the darkness of unbelief and sin, from prejudice and hate, from resentment and bitterness, from all that makes us less than we should be as children of God. We ask him to expand our vision and begin to see life whole, to see with the eyes of Christ and the understanding of his mind. To put on Christ, as St Paul would say (Rom.13:14, Eph.4:6, Gal.3:27). *'We live by faith, not by sight.'* (2Cor.5:7). Faith is the touchstone of the Christian and it is by faith that we eventually come to vision; the vision of God face to face. Then the veil will be lifted and the beauty and wonder of all that now lies hidden will be revealed to us for *'eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love him.'* (1Cor.2:9).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1428.85

Our Lady's £225.73

Thank you