

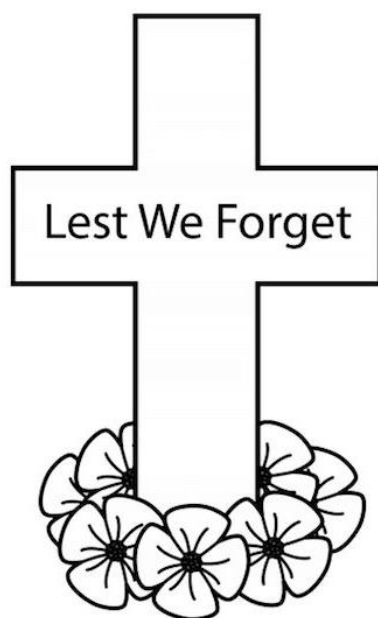
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Liam Castle.

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

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**THIRTY-SECOND
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
10th November 2024



BLESSING OF GRAVES

Blessing of graves today at Norse Road at 2.30pm. Kempston 17th Nov at 2.30pm. Each service will begin with prayers near the entrance to the cemetery followed by the blessing of individual graves.

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.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Tickets for the Christmas Draw are also on sale today after Mass at £2.50 a book. Prizes needed, please, for the draw can be left at the presbytery or in Our Lady's church.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christmas Fair at Christ the King Parish on Saturday 30th November 1pm-2pm. Admission 50p. See poster.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Chris & Eric McNoughton, RIP
	9.30am	Johnson Family
	11.00am	Aley Mathai, RIP
	6.30pm	Holy Souls
Monday	St Martin of Tours	
	10.45am	East Timor Victims
Tuesday	St Josaphat	
	10.45am	Mary Frost
Wednesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Thressiamma Varghese, RIP
Saturday	St Margaret of Scotland	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston		
Saturday	6.00pm	Holy Souls

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: None this Saturday

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

EVC UGANDA TALK

There will be a brief talk today at all Masses about the charity EVC Uganda, which started in this parish ten years ago. The charity provides a future through education for some of the poorest children in the world. A retiring collection will be taken.

INDIAN MEAL

This will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th November in the Indiya Restaurant, The Broadway, Bedford. There will be a choice of curries and grilled meat available and the cost will be £20 per person for a starter and main course. The restaurant will give us £2 towards our parish project, Mary's Meals, for every diner who attends. Please place your name and contact details on the list at the back of the church if you wish to attend. It is helpful if you could please pay in cash on the night. See you there.

OPEN MEETINGS

Our next open meeting on the parish questionnaire feedback will be on Thursday 21st November focusing on Prayer, Faith and Education. You are again invited to attend and share your ideas 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 on the parish website www.stjosephsbedford.org/pilgrims-of-hope.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The SVP is concerned that some parishioners may not be aware of the help and support it can provide to those struggling to provide food for their families, the elderly who may be lonely, and those with other issues. If you are aware of anyone you know who might benefit from our help, please contact us on 07594 491404. Thank you.

ST JOHN RIGBY SCHOOL

The school is having an Open Morning on Saturday 16th November from 9.30am to 12.00pm. To book a time slot for a tour and talk from the Head, please visit www.trybooking.com/uk/DZSG.

HOLY HOUR

In the light of the proposed bill on assisted suicide to be discussed at the end of this month in Parliament, the bishops of England and Wales have asked us to join them in a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament to pray for the dignity of human life this Wednesday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed this Wednesday in St Joseph's church at 5.30pm. Also to write to our MP asking him to oppose this proposed bill. This can easily be done here: www.righttolife.org.uk.

THANK YOU

Fr Francis Maple, who concelebrated Mass in St Joseph's these past three Sundays, wishes to thank those who bought his book and other items.

BEDFORD FOODBANK

Items needed: Tinned meat/fish/veg/fruit /pudding, cooking sauces, coffee, milk (UHT or powdered), cereals, fruit juice (long life), jam and tin openers. You can place items in the green bin in St Joseph's or the cardboard box in Our Lady's.

REFLECTION

Many years ago a book was published entitled '*Love and Let Go*'. It chronicled the grief of a couple who had lost their child to an incurable illness. In their grief, they turned to God to help them because the pain of loss was becoming unbearable. In prayer they gradually learned to cope with it and, in a moment of grace, came to realise that life is a gift to love, to cherish and eventually to let go because it is not ours to keep or demand. What gave these grieving parents heart was the realisation that in letting go they would be given back; that their child would be reunited with them beyond death. It's a common experience not only in death but in the experience of life. For example, we have to let go of our children to make their own way in the world and that can be painful. But this experience is most acutely felt when it comes to the final separation of death. We love much, therefore, we grieve deeply. But we do not grieve like people who have no hope, as St Paul writes (1Thess. 4:13). In this month of November we remember and pray for our dead in the sure and certain hope that we shall see them again beyond the reach of death. '*Life is changed, not ended*' as we say in the funeral liturgy. '*The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality.*' A merely humanist approach to death is empty of hope and gives little comfort to the bereaved. I once met a dying lady in hospital who was convinced that she was going into a black hole and that was it! I think I convinced her otherwise and gave her the anointing of the sick or last rites, as it used to be called, which afforded her some comfort in her last hours. I hope she is praying for me now! We have been given this life, however long or short it may be, to prepare ourselves to enter into the light of eternity with God, but also with all those we have loved and had to let go. In that land we will not be separated again, we will not have to let go. Instead, we shall enjoy one another's company once more with no memory of pain or loss or suffering because the world of the past (this present world) has gone. Then we shall take possession of what is rightfully ours and which has been kept for us since the foundation of the world.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1404.36

Our Lady's £273.00

Thank you