

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

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

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**THIRTY-THIRD
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
17th November 2024



BLESSING OF GRAVES

Blessing of graves today at Kempston Cemetery at 2.30pm. The service will begin with prayers near the entrance to the cemetery followed by the blessing of individual graves.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next class is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

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 which can be left at the presbytery or in Our Lady's church.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	K.M. Paulose & Rosakutty, RIP
	9.30am	Gus, William & Des Orr, RIP
	11.00am	Theresa Nugent (Freda), RIP
	6.30pm	Holy Souls
Monday	<i>Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul</i>	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Edmond Connolly, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Thursday	<i>Presentation of Our Lady</i>	
	10.45am	Alfonso Bacangallo Jr. RIP
Friday	<i>St Cecilia</i>	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Saturday	<i>St Columban</i>	
	10.45am	Holy Souls

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Holy Souls
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm.

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Feast of Christ the King

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

THANK YOU

A total of £1501.92 was raised from last week's appeal for the work of EVC Uganda. Many thanks from Ted and Judi Fawcett for this most generous response.

INDIAN MEAL

This will be at 7.00pm this 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 **today** 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 this 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 here: 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 who might benefit from our help, please contact us on 07594 491404. Thank you.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

Please take a postcard from the back of the church and post to our MP, Mohammed Yasin, asking him to oppose the bill seeking to legalise assisted suicide. As it states on the postcard, 'Assist us to live, not to die.' We must resist the culture of death that has overtaken so many societies. We preach the gospel of life not the counsel of despair.

40 HOURS DEVOTION

We will be running the 40 Hours Devotion from 3.00pm on Thursday 28th November to 7.30pm on Saturday 30th November in St Joseph's church. This will take the form of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Reconciliation Chapel through the day and the night. If you would like to take part, please sign the list at the back of the church the day and the timeslot you would like to be present. Contact Mathew on 07404 502800 for further information.

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Des Orr and Bob Mitchell. Rest in peace.

REFLECTION

In my home county of Tyrone, Northern Ireland, there is an area called the Gortin Glens, made up of forest and lakes on quite hilly terrain. It is very beautiful and scenic, popular with tourists and hikers. On a particularly steep path there is a roadside bench on which is written, 'Rest and be thankful.' It is ideally placed for the weary traveller; a chance to rest and catch your breath before continuing the journey. Our life here on earth is likewise a journey, a journey back to God. It can be long and arduous, and so we need to take the opportunity to rest from time to time and be thankful for so much that is good and beautiful in our lives. Coming to Sunday Mass is an important way of doing exactly this, where we can leave behind our busy lives which can and does take its toll on us, and rest for a while in the company of the Lord and one another. Stopping each day to pray, to quieten our faculties and place ourselves in the restful arms of Jesus is another way we can rest and be thankful. Laying all that is in our hearts and on our minds before him and so unburden ourselves in that moment of encounter. Going on retreat, if you can, is another opportunity to unwind and to concern ourselves with our spiritual well-being in a more focused way. There is that spiritual component about us that needs our time and attention. I have just returned from a few days of monastic retreat; a real tonic! We all carry burdens of one kind or another and they can weary us and slow us down. We need to leave them before the Lord in prayer and ask him to lighten them for us, thus easing our journey. Resting in the Lord in this way will keep a balance in our lives and prevent us from giving up. My constant prayer is not to flag in the journey of faith, to keep before me my goal. There is much that can distract or tempt one from reaching journey's end. But making time for the Lord in prayer will prevent this from happening. He gives us a strength and a fortitude well beyond our own powers. Aware of our need for God in this way is a great blessing because we then realise that we have a companion, someone who wants to help us, to support us and even to carry us at times. Let him do so, let him accompany you and lighten your way. With Jesus by our side, there is nothing to fear or disturb us. He will always walk at our pace and be ever there to rest on him. For that, we can indeed be thankful.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1756.88

Our Lady's £711.87

Thank you