

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

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

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CHRIST THE KING

24th November 2024



NEW LECTIONARY

As from next Sunday, the beginning of the season of Advent, we will be using the new translation of the lectionary for the scripture readings. The people's Sunday Missal can be ordered from CTS, 42-46 Harleyford Road, London, SE11 5AY. Tel: 02076 400042. orders@ctsbooks.org www.ctsbooks.org

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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets this Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Embankment Hotel. All welcome.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Holy Souls
	9.30am	Holy Souls
	11.00am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Holy Souls
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Franc Rozman, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Requiem: Des Orr
Saturday	St Andrew	
	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:

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Advent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who attended the Indian Meal last week. We raised £50 in aid of our parish project. We thank John Moore for organising this enjoyable evening.

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 throughout the day and the night. If you would like to take part, please sign the list at the back of the church indicating the day and the timeslot you would like to be present. Contact Mathew on 07404 502800 for further information.

GIVING TREE

The SVP will be taking small gifts to those they visit this Christmas. If you would like to help by donating a gift, please take a label from the Giving Tree which will be on display by the entrance of St Joseph's church from next Sunday, buy the item mentioned on the label and bring back the wrapped gift by Sunday 15th December.

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 know 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 it 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.

ADVENT ONLINE RETREAT

On four Monday nights at 7.30 – 8.30pm, starting on 25th November, Fr John Udris and Avril Baigent will be leading an online retreat called 'Doorways to Grace'. We explore the four Holy Doors of Rome and the saints behind them. How we, like them, are being called into a grace-filled encounter with Jesus in the coming Jubilee Year. To watch the trailer and to register for the retreat go to www.northamptondiocese.org/doorways.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Des Orr and Bob Mitchell. Bob Mitchell's funeral will take place this Wednesday in Our Lady's at 11.00am. Des Orr's funeral Mass will be this Friday in St Joseph's at 10.45am.

REFLECTION

Sitting by a large tropical fish tank in a restaurant last week, (our parish Indian Meal evening), I was mesmerised by the beauty and variety of the fish swimming about without a care in the world! It had me thinking how clever God is in creating such. Indeed, when we look at the natural world one

cannot help being astonished at the variety of life on this planet; so many different species, from the tiniest insect to the enormous bulk of the blue whale. And each specimen is unique and unrepeatable, containing within itself an intricate harmony and beauty all of its own. Then we look at the material world and the vast array of the universe and see there, too, a harmony and a beauty that is breathtaking! How clever God is to bring all this about! It says something of the nature of God himself. He is infinite and transcendent, beyond any created thing, material or spiritual. Each one of us, as part of this created order, is also unique and unrepeatable, reflecting, in part, the uniqueness of God himself. In the words of St Thomas Aquinas, *'God cannot express himself fully in any one creature, and so he has produced many and diverse forms so that what one lacks in its expression of divine goodness, which in God is single and undifferentiated, in creatures is refracted into myriad hues of being'*. Writers, artists and musicians understand this, in that one piece of created endeavour cannot wholly define them, hence their need to express themselves in 'myriad hues' of creativity. This points to the uniqueness of the human species itself, in that we, too, are creators; we have the power to create, to invent, to express ourselves outside of ourselves. We are pro-creators with God and, of course, in a very literal sense when we bring new life into the world in children. That desire to express ourselves is innate to us because we are made in the image and likeness of God. And that creative urge tends towards the good, the beautiful and the true, especially as people of faith. Where there is no belief in the transcendent, beauty is lost. We see this in the purely secular and utilitarian approach and view of life which is grey and flat. Compare this to the high medieval and renaissance period of European history, for example, with its architectural and artistic heritage, born of a deeply religious culture and sensibility at the time. Having a religious sensibility, specifically Christian, enables us to view the world and life itself with the eye of the artist who can see beauty, truth and goodness in what is, despite what may disguise it at times. In our being, we are reflections of the supreme beauty and goodness of God himself in *'myriad hues, and where 'Christ plays in ten thousand places.'* (Gerard Manley Hopkins).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1661.16

Our Lady's £367.00

Thank you