

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

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

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THE HOLY FAMILY 29th December 2024



THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped once again to make our parish celebrations of Christmas a joyful occasion. Special thanks to our musicians and singers, our readers and ministers, the Children's Liturgy team, parish catechists, our flower arrangers and those who helped to erect the trees and crib in both churches and our altar servers and our church cleaners (we could do with some more, please). Thanks also to our SVP conference members who do so much good work with those in need. I and Fr Liam are most grateful for your generous Christmas offering and the many greeting cards and gifts received.

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

On this feast of the Holy Family there will be an opportunity once again for all married couples attending Mass today to renew their marriage vows and seek God's blessing.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Pauline McHugh
9.30am Paula Orr
11.00am Jackie Nally, RIP
6.30pm Sean King, RIP

Monday *St Thomas of Canterbury*

10.45am Ron Almond, RIP

Tuesday *Christmas Octave*

10.45am Sara Sharif, RIP

Wednesday *Mary, Mother of God*

10.45am Des Orr, RIP

Thursday *SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen*

10.45am Tatjana Rozman

Friday *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

10.45am Melanie Lewis, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am Paul Goodstadt, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mary Connolly, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: The Feast of the Epiphany

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: None until January

CRIB OFFERING

Money placed in the Crib offering box is in aid of our parish project, Mary's Meals.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The list of prize winners is now available to view in the church porch. Winners can collect prizes from the presbytery. We made £798.70 from the draw. Thanks to all who bought tickets and donated prizes. A most generous response.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

We also made £309.58 profit on the Christmas Card Sale in aid of our parish project. Again, thanks to all who supported the sale.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

Our next fundraising event will be the Surplus Gift Sale on Sunday 19th January in the Guild Room and in the porch of Our Lady's church after the Masses. Donation of gifts can be left at the presbytery and Our Lady's church.

FUNDRAISING MEETING

The next fundraising meeting will be on Friday 10th January at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the gift of peace as we begin the New Year.

PARENTS MEETING

The parents of the children preparing for their First Holy Communion are reminded that there will be a meeting and talk on Thursday 9th January at 7.15pm in St Joseph's Church. The next class for the children will be Saturday 11th January at 9.15am in the Guild Room.

ART RETREAT

Sue McQueen, a professional artist, will be running a day's Art Retreat in Turvey Abbey on Saturday 1st February 2025 from 9.45am to 4.30pm. The cost of the day is £50 which includes materials, refreshments and a vegetarian lunch. For booking, please contact Fr John on 01234 881211 or turveymonks@yahoo.co.uk or Sue McQueen on 07540 807695 suemcqueenartretreats@gmail.com. Please see poster on the noticeboard for full details.

DIOCESAN CALENDARS

The 2025 Diocesan Calendars are available for sale at £5 at the back of the church. They are few in number but more can be ordered if we run out. I'm not featured in it this year but Fr Liam is pictured three times! Jealous, moi?! You can place money in the wall-box marked Parish Project.

RED MISSIO BOXES

Thanks to all who handed in the Missio Boxes. The total counted so far is £1082.17. A few more late boxes have yet to be counted for the final total. Please take a new box from the back of the church if you wish to continue to aid the missionary work of the Church in this way. Thanks again for your ongoing support.

REFLECTION

On Christmas Eve Pope Francis inaugurated the Jubilee Year or Holy Year with the opening of the Porta Santa in St Peter's Basilica in Rome; the Holy Door. Since 1300 a Holy Year has been proclaimed, initially every 100 years. Various Popes down the ages have changed the length of the interval between the observances of these special Years until Pope Paul II set the present 25-year interval in 1500. The Holy Year of 2025 has as its theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope.' We, as Christians, must always carry the virtue of hope; hope in God's love and mercy guiding us and our world, accompanying us on our pilgrim way back to him. It is a time of resetting our relationship with God and with one another. With God, in striving to keep alive that relationship through prayer, the practice of our faith, the forgiveness of our sins and good works. With others, in expressing our faith by love in action, our own willingness to forgive and seek the good. The Jubilee Year is an invitation to reset our lives in the light of the gospel and to use the time given to us in God's service as channels of his peace, his goodness and his love. A good New Year's resolution! The Jubilee is first described in the book of Leviticus 25:8-17. It was a call to cancel debts and to set slaves and prisoners free. It was also a year when the whole nation (Israel) sought and received collective forgiveness for its sins. Forgiveness of sins is very much part of the Holy Year theme. We come before the Lord with our burden of sin and implore his mercy. There is a little booklet entitled, 'The Jubilee' on the bookstand which I would encourage you to take and read, exploring these themes of the Holy Year. The booklets are free. So, as we enter into the New Year let us strive to make it a Holy Year through our own holiness of life and as pilgrims of hope.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the souls of Mary O'Connor, Daisy McCann and Vincent Arthur. May they rest forever in the peace of the Lord.

*Wishing you God's blessing and
peace in the New Year.*

Canon Seamus & Fr Liam.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1624.65

Our Lady's £261.86

Thank you