

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

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

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THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2nd February 2025



MISSION APPEAL

We welcome Sister Priscila of the Sisters of St Peter Claver to our parish today as she speaks about the missionary work of her Congregation and makes an appeal for our help. To this end there is a second collection at all Masses today.

INDIAN MEAL EVENING

The next fundraising event for our parish project, Mary's Meals, is on Tuesday 11th February at 7.00pm at Indiya Restaurant, Broadway, Bedford, when a choice of grilled meats, vegetarian and curry dishes and some English alternatives will be available. The cost will be £20 per person for two courses and the restaurant has kindly agreed to give us back £2 for our charity for every diner who attends. Do join us for what is an enjoyable evening and help support a very good cause. If interested, please put your name and contact number on the list at the back of the church as soon as possible.

BLESSING OF THROATS

The traditional blessing of throats on the feast of St Blaise will take place after Mass this Monday.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Anna Rochford, RIP
	9.30am	Colin Conway
	11.00am	Joan & Christina Summers
	6.30pm	Catharine Williams, RIP
Monday	St Blaise	
	10.45am	Vladimir Gmajner, RIP
Tuesday	Feria	
	10.45am	David Farrell, RIP
Wednesday	St Agatha	
	10.45am	Enza & Gaetano LaGratta, RIP
Thursday	St Paul Miki & Companions	
	10.45am	Nonnoe & Nouna Caponigro, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Alex & Alessia
Saturday	St Josephine Bakhita	
	10.45am	Liz Renwick, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Dinah Keane
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow.

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The list of prize winners is still 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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next preparation class for the children making their First Holy Communion this year is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

The Mothers' Prayers group meet this Monday after the 10.45 am Mass in the Reconciliation Chapel. All mothers are invited to join in prayer for their children.

JUBILEE YEAR INDULGENCE

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Church which cleanses our soul and helps us to grow closer to God. When we sin, we not only damage our relationship with God, we create a need for healing and repair in our souls and in the world. Through Reconciliation, God forgives our sins but the effects of our sins may still need to be addressed. Indulgences are a beautiful practice combining prayer, good works and spiritual renewal to help repair that damage. Indulgences can also be applied to souls in purgatory. There is a printed sheet at the back of the church which explains all this in more detail and how we can take advantage of this special year of grace. Please take a copy. Our church of the Holy Child & St Joseph has been designated as one of three churches in our diocese in which we can gain the plenary indulgence.

A JOURNEY OF HOPE

For the Jubilee Year this Lent, there is an opportunity of a retreat in daily life on Mondays from 3rd March. Begin or deepen your prayer life, get to know the scriptures better and, above all, grow in faith and in love for the Lord who loves you. You will receive weekly one-to-one support from an experienced prayer guide on Zoom. To find out more, sign up to our introductory webinar on Monday 3rd February, 7.30pm-8.30pm: www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1506153

BEDFORD FOODBANK

The following items are needed for the Foodbank: Tinned meat/tuna/veg/fruit/pudding, cooking sauces, coffee, UHT milk, cereals, long-life fruit juice, jam, laundry tablets.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

Parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 9th to 16th September 2025. Please contact Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054 as soon as possible. More details later.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Baldrey, Pam Barker and Mary Binder. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

We live in a beautiful world where all that we need is given to us for our thriving. Because it is all so familiar to us we can easily take it for granted and give little thought to where it all comes from and who made it. We have lost that sense of wonder and we misuse our natural resources. We should be amazed by the bio-diversity of our planet; the variety of all living things and their interactions. Everything is so finely balanced and acts within its own laws from the tiniest insect to the enormous and exotic creatures that roam our earth and swim our seas. Truly awe-inspiring! The various nature programmes we see on our screens have greatly informed us of the wonder of our natural world. Such diversity and harmony points to a creative and guiding mind which we call God: *"When I see the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars that you have made."* (Psalm 8:3). The psalmist here recognises this truth and acknowledges a divine hand behind all that is. And we, as human beings, are part of this created order, indeed central to it as custodians and inheritors of the divine purpose of creation; union with the Creator: *"For in him (Christ) all things were created, things in heaven and things on earth, visible and invisible...all things have been created through him and for him."* (Col. 1:16). Creation finds its source and its purpose in Christ. To be united in him is creation's goal. Living this life is not meaningless or directionless. We are the work of God's hands which bestows dignity upon us and a destiny which stretches beyond the limitations of this world. The beauty of this world and the created universe points to him who is both the beginning and the end of all that is: *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."* (Rev. 22:13). Creation's purpose is to be found in Christ and in the service of man who is also appointed by God as its custodian, responsible for its care and protection. It is God's gift to us. It is not ours by right. We are, therefore, to live by the law of gift. This includes human life itself, from the moment of conception to natural death. To destroy life is the ultimate denial of this innate law. We, as Christians, should understand this most of all and live our lives in the light of this truth. Doing so will re-ignite that sense of wonder and gratitude and indeed adoration of him who is the architect of all that exists.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1504.69

Our Lady's £220.27

Thank you