

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

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 5th January 2025



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The First Communion classes begin again this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

PARENTS MEETING

The parents of these children are asked to attend a meeting this Thursday at 7.15pm in St Joseph's church, please.

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.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Melvin & Flossy D'Souza
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Elsie & Ken Petts, RIP
	6.30pm	Bernard Atkins, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Bridget & Michael Slattery, RIP
Tuesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Stella Simicic
Wednesday	Feria	
	10.45am	Requiem: Vincent Arthur
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Dragona Simicic
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Mariella Pompa
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	John, Elizabeth, Letizia & Anne

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Sister Ansalam, RIP
----------	--------	---------------------

Confessions – St Joseph's:
Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Nodoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: The Baptism of the Lord

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until 26th January

CRIB OFFERING

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

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

'There is great simplicity about his birth. Our Lord comes without any fanfare. No one knows about him. On earth only Mary and Joseph share the divine adventure. And then the shepherds who received the message from the angels. And later on the wise men from the East. They were the only witnesses of this transcendental event which unites heaven and earth, God and man.'

St Josemarie Escriva

FUNDRAISING MEETING

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

QUIZ NIGHT

We are invited to a Quiz Night in Christ the King Church Hall, Harrowden Road, Bedford on Saturday 25th January starting at 7.30pm, arriving by 7.15pm. Tickets are £10 which includes Fish & Chips. There will be a limited cash bar or bring your own drink. For tickets contact Rachel Kirkham on 314093.

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.

OPEN MEETING

The next meeting relating to the Synod parish questionnaire will be on Thursday 16th January with the subject 'Developing our Youth.' Meeting at 2.30pm in Our Lady's, Kempton and at 7.30pm in St Joseph's Guild Room. All welcome.

RED MISSIO BOXES

Thanks to all who handed in the Missio Boxes. The total counted now is £1232.47. Thank you for your generous giving. 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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the souls of Mary O'Connor, Daisy McCann, Vincent Arthur, Pam Barker and Mary Binder. 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.

REFLECTION

The Magi were searchers for truth and they embarked upon a pilgrimage of hope which took them to Bethlehem and a new-born infant. In him, they recognised truth incarnate and laid their treasures of homage before him. Their search had come to an end and they returned to their land by a different way after being warned in a dream. These wise men sought and they found. For a while, their guiding star had disappeared and were left a little lost, but then it reappeared and it filled them with delight! They were the forerunners of a great multitude, ourselves included, who would also discover the truth in Jesus and pay him homage. Like the Magi we are on a search, a pilgrimage to find meaning in our lives, to find direction. Sometimes we feel a little disorientated or lost but if we keep our focus on Jesus, our guiding star, we will soon find our way and discover in him the meaning of our existence and our ultimate destiny. Again, like the Magi, our encounter with Jesus should change us, and we continue our journey through life by a different way, a new direction than perhaps we were travelling before; a way now more defined and resolute. In the confusion of life, it is easy to become distracted and disorientated, wandering onto different paths that can lead to a dead-end and disappointment. Wisdom is needed if we are to arrive safely at our destination. Pray for that gift. In their quest, the Magi did not go empty-handed. As we continue our journey on earth we carry with us the treasure of our works of charity, our prayers and the many sacrifices we have to make in living authentic Christian lives. In doing so, we are assured of Christ's loving welcome at journey's end. The word epiphany means manifestation or revelation. Pray that the Lord will reveal himself ever more clearly, chasing away the darkness of doubt and cynicism. If we are filled with clarity and light then we become so for our brothers and sisters and in a world that needs light and hope. We are children of the light and the power of darkness cannot extinguish it: *'All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.'* (Jn 1:4-5). In the certain knowledge of this, we enter the New Year, this Holy Year, as pilgrims of hope guided by the star of faith.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1426.11

Our Lady's £248.40

Thank you