

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

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

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BAPTISM OF THE LORD 12th January 2025



SURPLUS GIFT SALE

Our next fundraising event will be the Surplus Gift Sale on Sunday 19th January in the Guild Room, St Joseph's, 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 this week.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICES

There will be a service for Christian unity this Saturday in St Joseph's church at 2.30pm. All welcome to pray for this intention at the start of Christian Unity Week. Other churches participating are: St Andrew's, Kimbolton Rd on Sun 19 Jan at 6pm, The Polish Church, Mill Street on Mon 20 Jan, St Martin's, Clapham Rd on Tues 21 Jan, Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street on Wed 22 Jan 1.30pm. Thurs 23 Jan at 12.45pm Bedford Quakers, Lansdown Rd, Fri 24 Jan at 1pm Christchurch, Goldington Rd. Again, all are most welcome to these services.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Albert Herbert
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Francis John Donnelly, RIP
	6.30pm	Manna & Maryam
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Dennis Gilbert, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Barbara Clear, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Elizabeth & Salvatore Andreozzi
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Terezija Dernulc, RIP
Friday	<i>St Anthony of Egypt</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Daisy McCann
Saturday	<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Elaine McLennon, RIP
Thursday	1.00pm	Requiem: Mary O'Connor

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

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.

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.

GIVING TREE

Many thanks for the generous response to our Giving Tree appeal. The SVP clients were delighted to receive these little gifts for Christmas.

OPEN MEETING

The next meeting relating to the Synod parish questionnaire will be on Thursday 16th January for **St Joseph's** at 7.30pm in the Guild Room and on Thursday 23rd January in **Our Lady's**, Kempston at 2.30pm. The subject to be discussed will be 'Developing our Youth'. All welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION - SPUC

There will be a second collection for the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children next Sunday at all Masses. SPUC exists to radically transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes truly unthinkable. To accomplish this mission, the Society is positioning initiatives in politics, education, legislation and culture. Through these efforts, we will restore respect for the sanctity of human life to our society. This year's postcards, to be found at the back of the church, call on the Government to adhere to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers.

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

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

REFLECTION

On the feast of the Epiphany last Sunday we remembered the charming Christmas story of the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. Today we see Jesus, now an adult, about to embark upon his public ministry after his baptism in the river Jordan by St John the Baptist. Not that he needed baptism, as he is the sinless one, but he wanted to show his solidarity with us and to emphasise the importance of baptism in the life of faith, as the gateway to all the other sacraments, the purpose of which is to aid us in the journey faith which leads back to God and the eternal life he wants to share with us. But we have our part to play in all this because baptism and the other sacraments are not magic; they require a faith-response from us if they are to have an effect. Sadly, there are some parents who present their child for baptism and after having made promises asked of them regarding bringing up their child in the Catholic faith are never seen again except, perhaps, when it comes to First Holy Communion time. Promises, promises! It's sad because it deprives the child of the knowledge, love and friendship of Jesus in their young lives. Parents have such a responsibility before God in bringing their children up in the practice of the faith. Faith is a living relationship with the person of God. Something to be nourished and exercised in the world we inhabit for our brief time. Today's feast offers us the opportunity to reflect upon our good fortune as baptised Catholics. What a treasure we possess, this gift of faith! In baptism the finger of God is upon us, he has chosen you and me and set us apart to do him some service and to inherit the eternal kingdom he has prepared for those who love him. Such a privilege! This choice gives us hope and a real sense of joy even, and especially, in the difficult and sad times of life. And knowing that our time is limited, our faith keeps us vigilant, ready to stand with confidence when he calls us. If then we have been faithful to our baptismal promises we are assured of our heavenly Father's welcome embrace at the close of life. The word baptism means immersion. We are immersed in the life and love of God himself. In him we live and move and have our being, giving meaning and flavour to our existence, colouring all we do and how we relate to one another. Baptism is an invitation to a great adventure that will never end; the adventure of love.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1402.14

Our Lady's £798.85

Thank you