

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 19th January 2025



SURPLUS GIFT SALE

Surplus Gift Sale today after all Masses in the Guild Room and in the porch of Our Lady's church in aid of our parish project. Thanks to all who donated items for the sale.

SECOND COLLECTION - SPUC

There is a second collection for the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children today 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 a 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 take and post a card. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Donna McConville, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	John Moloney, RIP
	6.30pm	Bernard Atkins, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Tuesday **St Agnes**

10.45am John Podesta, RIP

Wednesday **St Vincent**

10.45am Mr & Mrs DiGennaro, RIP

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Friday **St Francis de Sales**

10.45am Caroline Gallagher

Saturday **Conversion of St Paul**

10.45am Damian Fernando, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Bernard & Anne Armitage, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

CRIB OFFERING

We raised £422.29 from the Crib offerings from both churches for Mary's Meals. Thanks to all who donated.

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.

OPEN MEETING

Open Meeting this Thursday in Our Lady's, Kempston at 2.30pm. The subject to be discussed will be 'Developing our Youth.' All welcome.

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 for our introductory webinar on Monday 3rd February, 7.30pm-8.30pm: www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1506153

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.

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 forever in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

The devastating fires in LA appearing on the news daily have underlined the unstable and uncertain nature of our world. Along with the many conflicts that erupt here and there and natural disasters we become frightened and worried. On a personal level, too, things happen that are out of our control which can cause pain and confusion. "*Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold.*" (W.B. Yeats). We may feel that the words of the poet, written a 100 years ago, are apposite for today. Maybe it always has been thus. Ever since the fall of man (c.f. Gen:3), we have inhabited a world that is estranged from its creator, its centre, and is not as it was meant to be. The question is, what is the centre of our world, of our lives? It cannot hold if we make the transitory things of this world our centre, and that includes human relationships, however deep they may be, simply because we have to let go of them at some moment. Then, of course, we are left bereft! In the end, we have to relinquish everything when we let go of life itself. Cheery thought! I think the lesson we need to learn is to cultivate a spirit of detachment if we are to enjoy more deeply the gift of life lived in this passing world. We naturally feel attached to things, to people, to ideas and so on. Nothing wrong with that. The problem comes when we make these the sole centre and preoccupation of our lives, depending on such for happiness and fulfilment. Then when something unexpected happens we fall apart; our centre cannot hold. But to develop a spirit of detachment will help us cope better and so not fall apart. How? Make God the centre; give him first place. Turn to him each day in prayer for he is always there waiting for recognition and our hearts. This is important. It will enable us to cope better with the vicissitudes of life and so retain our stability, our equilibrium. This is so because we have centred our lives on that which will never disappoint or collapse; the person of God, of Jesus Christ. Cementing that relationship with him will give us great comfort and surprising resilience. It is a mistake to place all our hopes for happiness and security on things that do not last, that turn to ash. Getting that right is not easy. We need to call out to the Lord for help and discernment. Avoid possessiveness or obsessions. They only lead to anxiety and unhappiness. Let Christ be your centre; the fine point of your being.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1502.09

Our Lady's £413.11

Thank you