

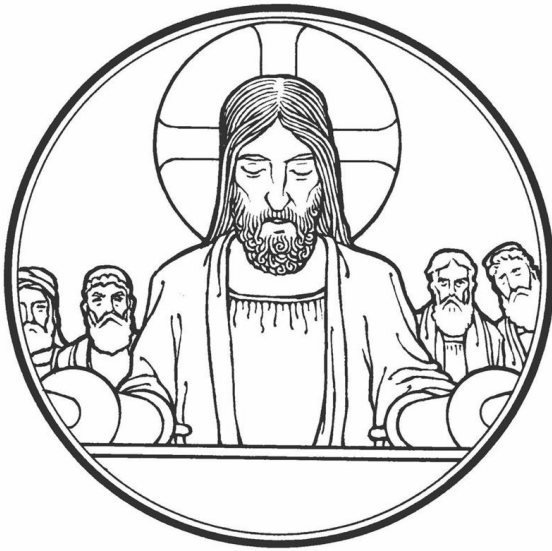
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
26th January 2025



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Anita Barberio, RIP
 9.30am Gus Orr, RIP
 11.00am In Thanksgiving
 6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Caroline Gallagher

Tuesday **St Thomas Aquinas**

10.45am Michael Baldrey, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Mick Carroll, RIP

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am John Crowley, RIP

Friday **St John Bosco**

10.45am Franc Rozman, RIP

Saturday **Votive Mass of Our Lady**

10.45am Anna Mimmo Caponigro, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mr & Mrs DiGennaro, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

MISSION APPEAL

The missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will be here next weekend to appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missions Committee of England and Wales. They will tell us about their missionary work and how we can help. There will be a second collection for this purpose.

LIVE SIMPLY AWARD

We congratulate St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School, Bedford, for having become the first Catholic secondary school in the diocese to be awarded the CAFOD Live Simply Award, promoting Catholic social Teaching through acts of love and humble service within the school and in the local community.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The St Joseph's Friendship Circle will be meeting again this Wednesday at the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. All welcome. Bring a friend.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Presentation of the Lord

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

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.

INDIAN MEAL

The next fundraising event for our parish project, Mary's Meals, is an Indian Meal evening at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th February at Indiya Restaurant, The Broadway, Bedford. Please make a note in your diary if you are interested in joining us for an enjoyable evening. More details soon.

OPEN MEETING

The next open meeting regarding the Synodal parish questionnaire will be this Thursday in Our Lady's, Kempston at 2.30pm and in St Joseph's Guild Room at 7.00pm. The subject to be discussed will be Communications. 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

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.

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.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

The sale continues for the next two weekends in Our Lady's, Kempston. Thanks to all who donated gifts.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Baldrey, Pam Barker and Mary Binder.

REFLECTION

In the face of a world in conflict, wounded and divided in so many ways, we feel powerless and helpless and even resigned to it all. The star of hope seems far receding. Not so! If it were then Christ would not have entered our world to save it. He must know that it and we are saveable. But it cost him! The cross of Jesus Christ! His cross, his death upon it, holds back the tide of evil and defeats the powers of darkness: *"For it is not against human enemies that we have to struggle...but the spiritual army of evil."* (Ephesians 6:12). So we have hope and our hope is Jesus Christ and the power of his cross and resurrection. In this Holy Year, as pilgrims of hope, we have the power to change and make better our world. Aligned with Christ every little act of love, of kindness, of goodness and of mercy, holds back the tide of evil and defeats the powers of darkness. We may think that what we do by way of countering the evil that is in the world is insignificant. On the purely human level, it may well seem that way. But we operate according to another law which the world does not know or understand; it is hidden in Christ who has already won the victory, which is played out in each generation. We do not always have an inside track on the plans of God, and how he operates. That is not our concern. All we have to do is be faithful and play our part in the time given to us and the place where God has planted us in his providence. We do what we can, small or great, to better our world in the face of all that threatens it or ourselves. We have this God-given power exercised in works of goodness, love, compassion and prayer. Don't forget the power of prayer: *"There are more things wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."* (Alfred, Lord Tennyson). In entering this spiritual battle, we do so with Christ. We put on the armour of God, (Eph. 6:11). Satan is strong and will discourage us in our efforts. But our secret weapon is the cross which was an instrument of torture and death, now become a sign of life and victory. Satan hates the cross! It's his defeat! It would be good to see the cross displayed in our homes reminding us of this and as a protection against the evil one. What matters most is that we live as people of faith and of holiness. In this is victory, the power of love which is stronger than evil and death. It is the love of Christ himself before whom, in the end, every knee shall bend.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1535.06
SPUC Collection	St Joseph's £423.04

Our Lady's £387.22
Our Lady's £69.91

Thank you