

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

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

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**EIGHTH SUNDAY
OF THE YEAR**
2nd March 2025



ASH WEDNESDAY

We begin the holy season of Lent this Ash Wednesday with the blessing and distribution of ashes at all Masses. Lent affords us the opportunity to once again deepen our relationship with the Lord and to seek reconciliation in the sacrament of Confession. This takes on special significance during the Holy Year, a time of grace for the whole Church. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (reduced food) and abstinence (no meat). The Mass times are listed.

PARISH QUIZ

Our next fundraising event for our parish project, Mary's Meals, is a Parish Quiz on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm in the Guild Room of St Joseph's church. So we may have an idea of numbers wishing to attend, please place your name and contact details on the list at the back of the church.

HEALING SERVICE

A short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass today before the Blessed Sacrament to pray for personal healing and for those in need of prayer.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	In Thanksgiving: Biby & Asha
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Charni Subhrai, RIP
	6.30pm	In Thanksgiving: Manna & Maryam

Monday ***Feria***

10.45am Mary Wright, RIP

Tuesday ***Feria***

10.45am Angela & Pasquale, RIP

Wednesday ***Ash Wednesday***

7.30am Sanjay Matos Agarwala

10.45am Lynn Wright

7.30pm Coleen Caulfield, RIP

Thursday ***Feria***

10.45am Chinnama K.I. Thomas, RIP

Friday ***SS Perpetua & Felicity***

10.45am Dayana & Santhush

Saturday ***Feria***

10.45am Naty Ojeda, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Peter & Elizabeth Renwick, RIP

Ash Wed 7.30pm David Armitage

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

As from next Sunday, there will be the Stations of the Cross at 4.00pm in St Joseph's and Our Lady's each Sunday during Lent. A good Lenten practice to help us focus on the passion and death of Jesus.

PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop David regarding the End of Life Bill going through Parliament at the moment will be read at all the Masses today.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

The Mothers' Prayers Group will be meeting in the Reconciliation Chapel after the 10.45am Mass this Monday. All parents invited to join in prayer for their children.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

Fr Liam and a group of parishioners from St Joseph's and Our Lady's parishes are taking part in this year's CAFOD Big Lent Walk. Whilst the goal is 200km they are aiming to far exceed that total. There are sponsorship forms at the back of the church and they would really appreciate your support. Please don't forget to Gift Aid your sponsorship if you are a taxpayer. Thank you.

CAFOD DISPLAY

Our parish CAFOD Group will be mounting a display next Sunday in our churches, advertising the work of CAFOD and handing out envelopes for the second collection on Sunday, 16th March. There will also be a short talk in relation to this collection.

LENT TALKS

As we begin our journey through Lent, we are invited to a series of four talks led by Fr Liam on various aspects of our Catholic faith. The first talk will be on Friday, 14th March from 7pm to 8pm on the topic of Temptation. All talks in the Guild Room. Access from Church Street. All welcome. See poster for full details and dates.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

Life in the Spirit Seminars to begin this Tuesday and each Tuesday during Lent in Our Lady & St Lawrence Church Hall, Olney, 39-41 West Street, MK46 5HH from 7.30pm to 8.45pm. All welcome.

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 Nugent and Elizabeth Meehan. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Lent is upon us once again. Some, perhaps, approach it with a certain dullness because of the demands it makes upon us i.e. prayer, fasting, almsgiving, confession of sins. It discomforts us (I like to do my penance in comfort!!), but so it should because we can easily fall into lax and careless ways in the spiritual life and so lose our sense of sin and the values of the gospel, which are always challenging. Lent affords us an opportunity to reset our relationship with God and our neighbour, especially to look at any unresolved areas where we may still be attached to a particular habit of sin or long-held resentments. This Jubilee Year is a call to reassess our lives in relation to God and others, a call to live more intensely the gift of faith and not allow the embers to die out but rather to fan into a flame what remains. Mediocrity and carelessness are death to the soul. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the traditional means by which we renew and revive our spiritual lives. Prayer keeps alive that essential relationship with God. Fasting or self-denial gives priority to the spiritual, putting aside self-indulgence. Almsgiving or works of charity reach out to others in need but also display that love which should pervade all we do and our interpersonal relationships. By these means, we answer that call of the Jubilee Year - to return or come closer to the Father and restore Christ to the centre of our lives. When we have done this, which requires some effort and resolve on our part, then the second imperative of that call, to love our neighbour, will be easier to do and become second nature to us. The word Lent means springtime, a time of renewal and refreshment. Like our homes, we need freshening up from time to time, a spring-clean, if you like. We approach Lent, then, not in a spirit of dread or dullness of heart but in a spirit of refreshment when we take a closer look at our lives and attend to what needs fixing and what needs the healing touch of God. Such an approach will lift that dullness of heart and put a spring into our step as we journey through this holy season and Holy Year towards the great refreshing feast of Easter.

"Accept the risen Jesus into your life. Even if you have been far away, take a small step towards him. He awaits you with open arms."

Pope Francis

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1629.84

Our Lady's £288.85

Thank you