

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9th February 2025



SVP DISPLAY

The St Vincent de Paul Conference in our parish will be mounting a display next Sunday in St Joseph's church advertising its existence and the work it does through its members. Information leaflets will be made available. The display will be in Our Lady's church the following week.

INDIAN MEAL EVENING

The next fundraising event for our parish project, Mary's Meals, is this Tuesday 11th February at 7.00pm at Indiya Restaurant, Broadway, Bedford, when a choice of grilled meats, vegetarian and curry dishes and some English alternatives will be available. The cost will be £20 per person for two courses and the restaurant has kindly agreed to give us back £2 for our charity for every diner who attends. Do join us for what is an enjoyable evening and help support a very good cause. If interested, please put your name and contact number on the list at the back of the church today.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am In Thanksgiving: Alwyn Siby
9.30am Izabella Gray, RIP
11.00am Maureen Baldrey & Family
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday *St Scholastica*

10.45am Margaret Hurd

Tuesday *Our Lady of Lourdes*

10.45am Requiem: Pamela Barker

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Johnson Family

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Melvin Bino

Friday *SS Cyril & Methodius*

10.45am Mary Binder, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Bob Mitchell, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

In the presence of the angels I praise 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: Sixth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

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.

EXPLORING SAFEGUARDING

This is an opportunity for those in parish ministries to get a better understanding of safeguarding from our diocesan safeguarding team, Danielle Dixon and Laura Lester. The venue is Holy Ghost Parish, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD, on Saturday 8th March from 10am to 1pm. Sign up at www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1544289.

JUBILEE YEAR INDULGENCE

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Church which cleanses our soul and helps us to grow closer to God. When we sin, we not only damage our relationship with God, but we create a need for healing and repair in our souls and in the world. Through Reconciliation, God forgives our sins but the effects of our sins may still need to be addressed. Indulgences are a beautiful practice combining prayer, good works and spiritual renewal to help repair that damage. Indulgences can also be applied to souls in purgatory. There is a printed sheet at the back of the church which explains all this in more detail and how we can take advantage of this special year of grace. Please take a copy. Our church of the Holy Child & St Joseph has been designated as one of three churches in our diocese in which we can gain the plenary indulgence.

A JOURNEY OF HOPE

For the Jubilee Year this Lent, there is an opportunity for 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, visit:

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 and laundry tablets.

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, Mary Binder and Pam Nugent. May they rest in the peace of the Lord. Mary's funeral is this Wednesday at 2pm in St Joseph's. Michael's funeral will be 27th February.

REFLECTION

"Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel." The words of praise of Simeon in St Luke's gospel which we heard being read last week. This is followed by a prophecy given to Mary: *"You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected, (and a sword will pierce your own soul too), so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare."* (Lk 2:29-35). Simeon first praises God for fulfilling his promise in this child, the long-awaited Messiah. A new light has dawned upon humanity, dispersing the darkness of unbelief, sin and death. Salvation is at hand! No longer are we to stumble about in a state of lostness and despair. We have a Saviour to help and guide us and show us, by his light, the way to the eternal life that we had forfeited by our original disobedience. The light of the gospel is the hope of the nations, which is why the Church's imperative is to proclaim the gospel message to all peoples. But Jesus and his gospel can be rejected and opposed, hence the warning in the prophecy that Jesus would be a sign of contradiction where his claims are rejected. We see the fulfilment of this in the opposition that Jesus met within his ministry and the violent end to his life. A most grievous sin! *"He is destined for the fall and for the rising of many...."* At the end of life, we will be judged on how we have lived the values of the gospel which, in essence, is the law of love. In the words of Pope Francis: *"Those who love, live. Those who hate, die."* To hate is to die inside; it is the death of the soul, and if one continues in that state of hatred, heaven is denied. A person of hate would not be happy in heaven, that land of pure love, joy and thanksgiving. We note also, in this prophecy of Simeon, how Mary would share in the sufferings of her Son. *"And a sword will pierce your own soul too."* We, as followers of the Lord, are also destined to share the sufferings of Christ by virtue of being baptised into his death and resurrection. This is the price we have to pay if we are to remain faithful to him. It will cost us as it cost him. But just as Mary stood by the cross, she stands by us too and, with her, we shall share the victory and the glory of the resurrection.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1495.38
Mission Appeal	St Joseph's £837.59

Our Lady's £701.50
Our Lady's £109.55

Thank you