

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

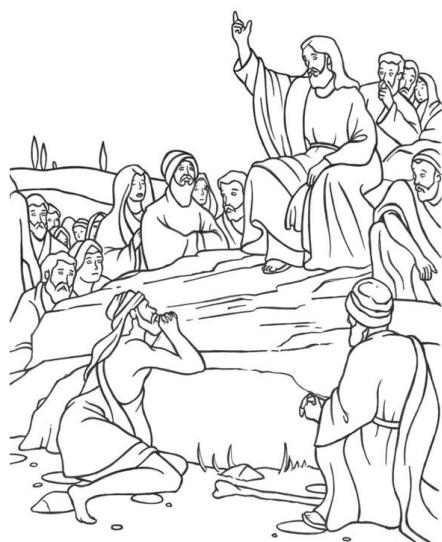
Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Liam Castle.

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

[www.stjosephsbedford.org](http://www.stjosephsbedford.org) Email: [parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org)

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

16<sup>th</sup> February 2025



### SVP DISPLAY

The St Vincent de Paul Conference in our parish have mounted a display today in St Joseph's church advertising its existence and the work it does through its members. Information leaflets will be made available. The same display will be in Our Lady's church this Saturday coming. A word of gratitude to all the members of the SVP who do such good and valuable work in the parish for those in need.

### INDIAN MEAL EVENING

Thanks to all who attended the Indian Meal Evening last Tuesday. A very enjoyable social occasion which raised £50 for our parish project. Thanks to John Moore who organised the event. Our next fundraising event will be a Parish Quiz on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

### JUBILEE BOOKLET

There are still some free Jubilee booklets available on the book stand in St Joseph's and in the porch of Our Lady's church. Please take a copy.

### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Tomy Chirackal, RIP  
9.30am Des Orr, RIP  
11.00am Michael Baldrey, RIP  
6.30pm Anthony Peter Cantle, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Aleksandras, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Gregoria Castillo, RIP

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Irena & Family

Saturday **The Chair St Peter, Apostle**

10.45am Pamela Barker, RIP

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Ernesto Bolongaita, RIP

### Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

**CLEANING:** S Masih, D Cummings

**FLOWERS:** Mrs Redmond

**NEXT SUNDAY: Seventh Sunday of the Year**

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 3

**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.

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> March from 10am to 1pm. Sign up at [www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1544289](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1544289).

### THANK YOU

The Sisters of St Peter Claver thank us for the very generous response to their Appeal recently. A great help to their work.

## **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, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, go to:

[www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1506153](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1506153).

## **MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE**

Parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 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 and Pam Nugent. May they rest in the peace of the Lord. Michael's funeral will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 10.45am in St Joseph's.

## **REFLECTION**

One of my favourite saints is St Paul. He was a man on fire with the love of God after his dramatic conversion. He couldn't stop speaking about and writing about Jesus Christ. He was his centre, his *raison d'être*. In his apostolic zeal, he traversed

many lands, bringing the good news of the gospel to all who would listen. Tradition has it that he died a martyr's death in Rome. A man of passion and conviction with a deep insight into the mystery of Christ. Paul was convinced of Christ's personal love for him: *"True, I am living here and now this mortal life; but my real life is the faith I have in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Gal 2:20). Paul was consumed by this love of Christ and spent the rest of his life proclaiming the saving love of Jesus: *"It is not I that lives but Christ lives in me."* (cf Gal 2:19). Paul had this deep conviction and insight that our real lives are *"hidden with Christ in God."* (Col 3:3). By virtue of our baptism we enter into a new way of being. Yes, we live this mortal life in this ever-changing world in which we are very much engaged. But we are citizens of another world, the kingdom of God. We have dual citizenship! We are, though, more conscious of our place in this world. It is when we come together to worship in the Mass or when we enter into prayer that we become more aware of that other world reality which awaits our arrival. Living between the two is challenging, with the demands of this life more pressing and immediate. Hence the need to work at a balance; accommodating this world but keeping an eye on what lies ahead. We can take a lesson from St Paul here. We are living now this mortal life but our real life is the faith we have in the Son of God. This insight makes sense of our lives and the purpose of our existence. It also helps to strike that important balance which prevents us from becoming too engrossed in the passing things of this life, remembering that whatever they may be, they are indeed passing. I think a lot of unhappiness and even depression is this failure to balance our lives, giving too much attention and emphasis to the here and now and so losing our perspective. If our real life is Christ, who loves me, then calling to mind this truth will help restore peace to our hearts and relieve us of the self-imposed burdens we carry. *'This, too, shall pass'* should be our mantra, knowing that we are citizens of another world that will never fade or pass away. Our faith in Christ is our bedrock; he is our life. This insight of St Paul sustained him through many difficulties and kept the flame of hope and joy alive in his noble soul. And it is also ours for the asking. Seek in prayer this grace. It is the path to a peace and a joy the world cannot give.

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

Offertory

St Joseph's £1557.75

Our Lady's £372.70

Thank you