

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

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

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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 23rd February 2025



SVP DISPLAY

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

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 that 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

There will be a short healing service before the Blessed Sacrament after the 6.30pm Mass next Sunday to pray for personal healing and for those in need of prayer.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	V.T. Mathai, RIP
	9.30am	Tony Hurd
	11.00am	In Thanksgiving: Donnelly Family
	6.30pm	Jamie & Family

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Ian & Heather & Family

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am Scott, Kelly & Jack

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Requiem: Michael Baldrey

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Georgina McMorrow & Family

Saturday **St David**

10.45am Geoffrey & Antonia Stone

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Tadeusz Kisiel, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Eighth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

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 8th March from 10am-1pm. Sign up at www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1544289.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

This Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for peace in our world and in our hearts.

PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

Pope Francis

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. 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.

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

There is a branch of theology known as mystical theology which concerns itself with the self-expression or revelation of God outside the deductive reasoning approach of academic study. It is usually of a personal nature, an intuitive understanding of God and the spiritual. It is born of a personal experience of God through prayer, contemplation and sometimes mystical phenomena such as visions, internal locutions, and spiritual

occurrences within the recipient. Such experiences, if they are of a public nature, e.g. apparitions, have to be carefully examined by the Church as to their authenticity. No new revelations are given in this way but rather a deepening of what has already been revealed in sacred scripture. In this sense, it is not something esoteric but belongs to the tradition of the Church and her theology. Great saints such as Sts Paul, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Thomas Aquinas, Francis of Assisi, John of the Cross, Padre Pio and many others belong to this tradition of mystical experiences. It says in the Letter to the Hebrews that, *“What you have come to is nothing known to the senses.”* (Heb 12:18). We live in a sensory world and we are creatures of sense. This is how we know things and experience things. But the spiritual world (and God is spirit), is something beyond the sensory. God cannot be properly known or experienced within purely sensory diameters. He is beyond and above. Yes, he became man so that we may come to know him according to our inherited human nature. But he is more than the mind can understand. We enter into mystery here. Our faith is rooted in the witness of the Church down the ages. It is also intuitive in that it does not depend on external evidence but on the grace of God. *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”* (Jn 20:29). So in this sense we are mystics! We are all called to a mystical life which leads to an ever greater experience of God on a deep and personal level. We can find it difficult to express this union with God. St Paul felt the same: *“I know a man (Paul) who was caught up-whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know; right into the third heaven; was caught up into paradise and heard things which must not and cannot be put into human language.”* (2 Cor 12:2-4). Extraordinary experiences such as this are rare. Most times it is in the ordinary that we encounter the real living presence of God. In prayer or going about our daily tasks, or attending Mass or in a quiet moment. We feel the nearness of God which cannot be captured in words but is tangible and profound. These unexpected graces are granted us to help us along the path of faith. It is a taste of what awaits us when the veil is finally lifted. The mystical life is not just for the spiritual elite but for all of us called to union with God *“in which everyone is a first-born son or daughter and a citizen of heaven.”* (Heb 12:23).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1436.42

Our Lady's £317.92

Thank you