

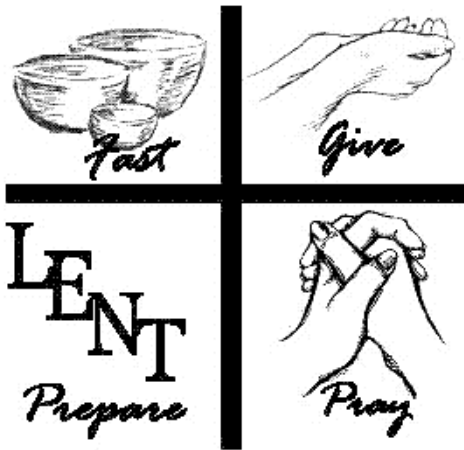
# St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

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

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## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025



### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Margare Herbert  
9.30am Elise Greig  
11.00am Michael Baldrey, RIP  
6.30pm Charlotte Chloe Horton

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Raymond Cheng, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

7.30am Patrick Cusack, RIP  
10.45am Eunice & Tony Benn

Wednesday **Feria**

7.30am In Thanksgiving: Chanpda Family  
10.45am In Thanksgiving: Johnson Family

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Dennis Gilbert, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Slawek: Private Intentions

Saturday **Feria**

10.45am Elizabeth Renwick, RIP

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Edie Kenno

### Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

### CAFOD DISPLAY

Our parish CAFOD Group is mounting a display today in our churches advertising the work of CAFOD and handing out envelopes for the second collection on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March. There will also be a short talk in relation to this collection today at all Masses.

### 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.

### WEDDING

Please hold in prayer Matthew Ayres and Kayleigh Flanagan who will be promising themselves to each other in the sacrament of marriage this coming Saturday afternoon.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

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

**CLEANING:** S Masih, D Cummings

**FLOWERS:** No flowers

**NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Lent**

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 2

**Children's Liturgy:** Bimla & Natalie Mathews

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **INVITATION**

Are you between the ages of 10 and 17? Do you sometimes feel that you are not being heard in the Church? Are decisions about you, made for you and not with you? If so, here is your opportunity to give your viewpoint. What does being a Catholic mean to you? What would you like to see/be part of our Church communities? You are invited to a meeting on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in Our Lady's Church, Kempston at 2.45pm for 3pm start. Bring your thoughts, hopes, ideas... even your concerns. We want to hear what you have to say. So do come along.

## **CAFOD LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES**

Soup and bread will be served each Friday during Lent beginning this Friday in Our Lady's Meeting Room, Kempston, at 12.30pm in aid of CAFOD. Donations gratefully received. All welcome.

## **EARLY MORNING MASSES**

During Lent there will be two extra early morning Masses in St Joseph's on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7.30am beginning this week.

## **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS**

Life in the Spirit Seminars 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 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 Pam Nugent, Elizabeth Meehan and John McGettigan.

## **REFLECTION**

*'When the Well Runs Dry'* was the title of a book by Fr Thomas Green, SJ. In it, he deals with a common experience: aridity in prayer. When we feel this happening, the one thing we must not do is give up. Even though we may experience dryness, we must continue to pray and call upon the Lord at such times to refresh us in his love.

He seeks an intimate relationship with each one of us which does not rely on feelings but pure love and trust. Aridity is part and parcel of growth in faith, being purified so that we may seek the Lord for himself and not the consolations we may sometimes feel in prayer. We may feel that we are running on empty and no longer find prayer a joy but rather a chore. And then we give up! Different reasons may obtain for this; personal problems, concerns, workload, tiredness and so on. The best thing to do at such times is to bring all this to the Lord and leave it there with him. Don't carry the burden on your own. Abandoning prayer will not ease the load; only increase it because there is no longer anyone to share it with. To aid us, a suggestion would be to turn to the psalms because there is expressed what we find unable to express. They keep alive the sense of the presence of God and, in a way, do the work for us, in that they put into words what we find difficult to express. As a priest, I am bound to say the Divine Office five times a day, which consists of a collection of psalms, scripture readings and readings from the Church Fathers. It is worth purchasing a single volume copy of the Office, which covers Morning, Evening and Night prayer in a four-week cycle from such Catholic book sellers as CTS or Redemptorist Publications. Another way of applying ourselves to the discipline of prayer is the Rosary, which invites us to reflect upon various aspects of our Lord's life whilst including our particular intentions. Our Lady herself advocates saying the Rosary in her various apparitions, especially at Lourdes and Fatima. Attending Mass on a weekday, if possible, especially during Lent, is another way to replenish our spiritual well. What is important in all this is that we don't give up, that we persevere, even though we may feel no sensible consolation during prayer. It is a way of keeping in touch with the Lord, and he will always reward our generosity and fidelity, and our spiritual desert will flower again. *'Taste and see that the Lord is good'* (Ps 34:8). We have to give him a chance to do his work in us. The Lord gives to those who wait on him. Let the exhortation of St Paul encourage us: *"Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* (Rm 12)

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

**Offertory**

**St Joseph's £1822.18**

**Our Lady's £493.24**

**Thank you**