

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.stjosephsbedford@northamptondiocese.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 16th March 2025



CAFOD SECOND COLLECTION

A second collection for the work of CAFOD will be taken today at all Masses. Envelopes for this are available in the porch. Please fill in the Gift Aid slip if you are a taxpayer.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN TALKS

Each Wednesday, there will be a series of Lenten Talks at Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford, starting at 1.00pm, on the centrality of the Cross in our lives of faith. This Wednesday, Fr John from Turvey Abbey, will be giving the talk. All are most welcome.

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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Incoronata Ricciardella, RIP
	9.30am	Joan & Christina Summers
	11.00am	John Michael Clooney, RIP
	6.30pm	Collen Chalmers, RIP
Monday	St Patrick	
	10.45am	Angela Wilson, RIP
Tuesday	Feria	
	7.30am	Sandy Wareham, RIP
	10.45am	Requiem: Elizabeth Meehan
Wednesday	St Joseph	
	7.30am	Lizzie O'Connor, RIP
	10.45am	Patrick Cusack, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Freddie Panilag, RIP
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	Joan Martin, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Bernard S David, RIP
----------	--------	----------------------

Confessions – St Joseph's:
Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

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 continue our journey through Lent, we are invited to a series of talks led by Fr Liam on various aspects of our Catholic faith. The next talk will be this Friday 21st March from 7pm-8pm on the topic of Mercy and Forgiveness. We meet 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 22nd 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 in Our Lady's Meeting Room, Kempston, at 12.30pm in aid of CAFOD. Donations gratefully received. All welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION - WALSINGHAM

There will be a second collection at all Masses next Sunday for the Shrine Our Lady, Walsingham, in support of the Jubilee Year initiatives and projects at the Shrine and its ongoing mission.

EARLY MORNING MASSES

During Lent, there are two extra early morning Masses in St Joseph's on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7.30am.

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 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 Pam Nugent, Elizabeth Meehan and John McGettigan.

REFLECTION

"I cannot understand my own behaviour. I fail to carry out the things I want to do, and find myself doing the very things I hate... the sinful things I do not want." (Rom 7: 15-19). Most of us, I'm sure, can identify with this personal insight of St Paul. This great saint keenly felt the weakness of the human condition and found no remedy for his plight in himself until he turns to Jesus: *"Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* (Rom 7:24-25). We all struggle with our human weaknesses and it is very tempting to just give up. We become discouraged and feel the effort is too much, too demanding. Our situation seems hopeless as we see ourselves fail and fail again in living as we know we should and, indeed, want to. But shrinking back is not the Christian way in the contest of faith. We struggle, but not alone. We have the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is what St Paul discovered in his weakness: *"I can assure my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come."* (Phil 3:13). We, too, strain ahead but, as I say, not alone. There is a tendency in us to fret about past mistakes and sins. This is not good because it holds us back from making any kind of progress in the spiritual life and the upward call to union with God. The devil wants to hold us captive in the chains of recrimination and self-doubt. He does not want us to experience the liberty of the children of God. Jesus came to set us free, to liberate us from the bonds of sin. It is only in entrusting ourselves to him that we are made free. And what a sense of freedom that is! That is my experience, especially when I go to Confession and hear those words of absolution. We are made free of sin and the burden of guilt. Jesus is someone we can go to with our sorry tale and know that he is all-forgiving in his tender mercy. Not only in our struggle with sin but to go to him with whatever may be troubling us. He is there in prayer to share with him what is laid up in our hearts. We surrender ourselves to him, acknowledging our need which then gives him the freedom to act in us and bring about that miracle of grace which recreates us as a true child of God, worthy of such a privilege despite our low performance at times, for *"where sin abounds, grace abounds even more."* (Rom 5:20).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1464.51

Our Lady's £653.14

Thank you