

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

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

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**THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT**
23rd March 2025



SECOND COLLECTION - WALSINGHAM

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

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. 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 have already exceeded this by completing 319km. 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	Anthony Herbert
	9.30am	George Wilkie, RIP
	11.00am	John Robinson, RIP
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Tuesday	Annunciation of the Lord	
	7.30am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
	10.45am	Nora & Michael Macken, RIP
Wednesday	Feria	
	7.30am	Brigid King & Family
	10.45am	Barbara Jun, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Sophie Gmajner, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Requiem: Pamela Nugent
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	Sara Sharif, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	John McGettigan, RIP
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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, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

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.

LENTEN 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 on Friday 4th April from 7pm to 8pm on the topic of the Eucharistic. We meet in the Guild Room. Access from Church Street. All welcome. See poster for full details and dates.

SYNODAL MEETING

On Thursday 27th March we will be holding our final Synodal meeting at 7.00pm in the Guild Room (access from Church Street). There is an opportunity to join us online. Just let me have your email address and we will be in contact.

SANCTITY OF LIFE ROSARY

The Rosary for the Sanctity of Life will be said after the 10.45am Mass this Saturday. We are invited to pray for this important intention.

CAFOD LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES

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.

ST JOSEPH'S FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle meets again this Wednesday in the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. All are welcome to come along and meet fellow parishioners in a social setting. Bring a friend.

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-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 and John McGettigan. May they rest forever in the peace of the Lord. Pam's funeral Mass is this Friday at 10.45am in St Joseph's. John's funeral will be on Wednesday 2nd April at 11.00am in Our Lady's, Kempston.

REFLECTION

Peace is often spoken about but is so elusive, as we can see in the present conflicts in our world. But peace is not just the absence of war or the absence of noise. It is something more, something deeper. It is of the heart and needs to be worked at. As Christians, this involves Christ because he is our peace (Eph 2:14-22). If we have Jesus in our lives then we will experience that peace which is not of this world but which is the gift of God. We will begin to feel this peace even in the midst of noise and distraction which occupies most of our daily lives. We can gain a certain peace when we relax and unwind but before long all kinds of things flood into that quiet place disturbing us with massive noisy junk! We need to confront the un-peace that clutters our minds and hearts and this can only be done by inviting Jesus into that place. He can get rid of that noisy junk and create a peace which is ours even in the busyness of life. This is a tranquillity that does not depend on extraneous circumstances. We might think that one can only have this peace by going off to a monastery or into some desert-like existence. That's a mistake! It is to be had by those who seek it where they are and not some idyllic place out there somewhere. It is to be found in Christ and he is where you are. So you don't have to go off and sit under a tepee chanting over crystals! Such will not survive the storms of life. For us, it is only in Jesus that we can arrive at this peace. And what is this peace that he offers and the world cannot? It is the peace that comes from the assurance that he will always be with us, that he is our security, that rock upon which we can build our lives. So whilst we are constrained to live in a world of noise and distraction, we are anchored in him, our bedrock. However, getting away from time to time, if we can, from the noise and chaos is a good thing and conducive to the mind and body, opening ourselves to the gift of peace which needs to be prayed for. We are more receptive to the gift if we can quieten our faculties. A good Lenten practice might be to find some quiet time and put aside distracting habits such as goggle-eyed attention to social media on your phone for a day. Give it a rest and give yourself over to prayer and silence of the heart wherein the voice of God echoes: *"In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."* (Isaiah 30:15).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1647.10

Our Lady's £357.53

Thank you

CAFOD

St Joseph's £1076.10

Our Lady's £292.55