

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

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 30th March 2025



SECOND CONFESSIONS

A reminder to the parents of the children preparing for their First Holy Communion that the children have the celebration of the sacrament of Confession for the second time this Friday at 6.00pm in St Joseph's church.

CAFOD RETREAT

In this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis calls us to be tangible signs of hope to others. We have an opportunity to take time out of our busy lives and spend it with God. Fr John Udris will be leading a CAFOD Jubilee Year retreat on Saturday 5th April at St Anne's Church Hall, Aylesbury Road, Wendover, HP22 6JG, arriving at 10am for a 10.30am start and finishing at 1.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

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 this Friday 4th April from 7pm to 8pm on the topic of the Eucharist. We meet in the Guild Room. All welcome.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Kathleen McGuire, RIP
	9.30am	Liubov Nikiforova, RIP
	11.00am	Paula Jones
	6.30pm	Orinda Fernando, RIP
Monday	Feria	
Tuesday	10.45am	Richard Hardwick, RIP
	Feria	
	7.30am	McEvoy Family
Wednesday	10.45am	Denorah Burnett, RIP
	Feria	
	7.30am	Victoria Konkolova, RIP
Thursday	10.45am	Dennis Gilbert, RIP
	Feria	
Friday	10.45am	Barbara Jun, RIP
	Feria	
Saturday	10.45am	Patrick Walsh
	Feria	
Saturday	10.45am	Mary Lombardo

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Mary O'Connor, RIP
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

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.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the much-needed gift of peace in our world today. We pray the Rosary for this intention as requested by Our Lady.

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. 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 tax-payer. Thank you.

WOMEN OF HOPE

The Women in Ministry group in the Diocese of Northampton is running a special event on Saturday 19th July 2025 at St Mary's Church, Woburn Sands from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Join us for 'Women of Hope', an opportunity for women across the Diocese to gather, share and celebrate the stories of our ministries past and present. We are delighted to welcome Avril Baigent who will share her experience of the Synod in Rome and lead us in a synodal listening process. Bishop David will also be joining us for the day and the final liturgy. All welcome. Sign up using the following link: www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1600230. For more information, please contact Helen Burgess at:

helen.burgess@northamptondiocese.org

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 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.

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 soul of John McGettigan. May he rest forever in the peace of the Lord. John's funeral will be on Wednesday 2nd April at 11.00am in Our Lady's, Kempston.

REFLECTION

The Latin inscription, '*Ave crux spes unica*', appears on the pulpit in the chapel of Oscott College, where I studied for the priesthood. It translates as '*Hail cross our only hope*.' The cross was always a sign of torture and death. That changed 2000 years ago when a certain person died upon it, and that person was God. Yes, God died on the cross! Remarkable! Astounding! But this is our Christian faith. We should ponder this mystery and realise that Jesus, although God, was also like us in all things, including suffering and death, except sin. Death had no power over him but he submitted to death only to conquer its power in his resurrection. The cross also reveals to us the great love of God for each one of us, that he was willing to endure this shameful death. It's not that God his Father demanded this of his Son, rather it is we who demanded it. Otherwise, we would not have been convinced of his love; we would not have taken him seriously. But when we look at the cross, we realise the searing truth, that I am worth the death of the Son of God; that I am worth the cross of Christ. Pondering this truth should fill each of us with eternal gratitude and, what's more, the realisation that this astounding revelation applies to everyone, even the most hateful of people. We, therefore, look upon others in a different light, in the light that shines on them from the cross of Christ. At the same time that light shows up our sins and the need to repent, that we may indeed be worthy of such unconditional love. The Cross has now become for us a symbol of love and life. Jesus, in his passion and death, truly identifies with us. He has taken on the burden of our humanity and redeemed it, saved it from the corruption of evil and sinful intent. His invitation echoes down the ages: "*Take up your cross every day and follow me*" (Lk 9:23). The cross here is the challenge of the Gospel because if we live it seriously, it will cost us. Furthermore, we can unite our own particular sufferings to his. And this is contained in that cry: "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" (Mt 27:46). In our own sufferings we may feel abandoned, as Jesus did, but he did not despair and was able to say at the last, "*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*" (Lk 23:46). The cross may loom large at times but it remains that sign of hope to brighten our road which leads to Easter joy and the Risen One.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1571.13

Our Lady's £401.74

Thank you

Walsingham

St Joseph's £462.86

Our Lady's £77.02