

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

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

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 6th April 2025



KSC DISPLAY

The Knights of St Columba have a display in St Joseph's church this week, advertising their existence in Bedford and the work they are involved with within the Church locally and nationally. Please take time to look at the display and take a leaflet for more information.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham will be on Saturday 14th June. A coach will be running from Bedford costing £19 per person. Pick up times: Christ the King 7.45am. St Joseph's (bus stop at Midland Rd train station) at 8.05am. Holy Cross at 8.20am. If interested please give your name and fare to Mary Frost; contact numbers: 304014 or 07708 264054 as soon as possible.

LENTEN TALKS

The final Lenten talk by Fr Liam will be this Friday 11th April from 7pm-8pm in the Guild Room. Topic: Holy Week. All welcome.

DAY OF ADORATION

Jesus Youth are holding an extra day of Eucharistic Adoration this Friday in the Reconciliation Chapel from 11.30am to 8pm. All are welcome to join in prayer.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Ian Herbert
	9.30am	Des Orr, RIP
	11.00am	Patrick Summers, RIP
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Sabatino Vincenzo
Tuesday	Feria	
	7.30am	Persecuted Christians
	10.45am	Yueng Sik Yuen, RIP
Wednesday	Feria	
	7.30am	Mr & Mrs Prior
	10.45am	In Thanksgiving: Aalvin Juby
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	David & Rosalind Shippen
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	Little Hearts Matter
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	Patrick Devaney

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Barbara Fink
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Palm Sunday

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: No children's liturgy. All in the church.

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.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be Penitential Service with individual Confessions on Tuesday 15th April at 7.00pm in St Joseph's.

SECOND COLLECTION - FLOWERS

There will be a second collection in St Joseph's next Sunday to purchase flowers for the church at Easter.

PASTORAL LETTER

A Pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is available at the back of the church. Please take a copy. Also, please pick up a card from the porch to send to our MP. He has voted against the Bill so far. Encourage him to do so again.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

There are sponsorship forms at the back of the church if you would like to sponsor our walkers in aid of CAFOD. 625km covered so far! Hoping to achieve 800 km by Easter Sunday.

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. Bishop David will also be joining us for the day and the final liturgy. All welcome. For more information, please contact Helen Burgess at:

helen.burgess@northamptondiocese.org. Sign up using the following link: www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1600230.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN TALKS

The final talk is this Wednesday 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

Final Soup Lunch this Friday in Our Lady's Meeting Room, Kempston, at 12.30pm in aid of CAFOD. All welcome.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gertrude Lewis. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

I listened to an interesting programme last week on the 20th century phenomenological philosopher, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, whose thought was influenced by the philosophers Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger. Interestingly, Edith Stein was a pupil of Husserl and she later converted

from atheism to the Catholic faith after reading the writings of St Teresa of Avila. She became a Carmelite nun and died a martyr's death in Auschwitz. She is now a canonised saint: Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Pope St John Paul also embraced phenomenology as a student of philosophy. In short, this approach held that the body-mind dichotomy, espoused for so long by rationalist thinkers, influenced by the 17th century philosopher René Descartes, was false and that the physical body had an important part in what makes up the subjective self. Therefore, Descartes' famous dictum, 'Cogito ergo sum', 'I think, therefore I am', should be 'I am, therefore, I think.' The fact of existence pre-empts the act of thought. Rationalism, on the other hand, asserts that reason and mental perception, rather than physical senses and experience are the basis of knowledge and self. This dualism of mind and body as two distinct entities does not seem to fit our common experience because we are not just thinking beings. The British philosopher, Gilbert Ryle, coined this dualistic idea as "*the ghost in the machine*." In other words, we are not just a functioning mechanical body occupied by a mind (the ghost), as an independent non-material entity governing the body. Our human integrity must be a united whole of both the acting person and the thinking person. The expression of the self is revealed in and through our bodily acts as we respond to the sensory world around us. Thus, the soul, created by God as the animating principle of our being, is not a separate, independent component of who we are but that which defines us as human. The eternal soul is woven into the fabric of our being, thus animating our lives as a thinking, moral person. We are embodied souls, and when we die and enter into eternal life, we do so in a unity of body and soul. The separation of body and soul, which we call death, does not really factor here as there is no time in God, and so we will already inhabit a glorified body in that final encounter with him. So, our lived experience in this material world, in a material body, is not of a dualistic order but as an integrated whole. Purely rationalistic thought would regard us as just functioning units until we are of no further use. Christian revelation illuminates the mystery of the human person through him who shared our nature that we may share in his divine nature and the fullness of life.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1610.22

Our Lady's £400.40

Thank you