

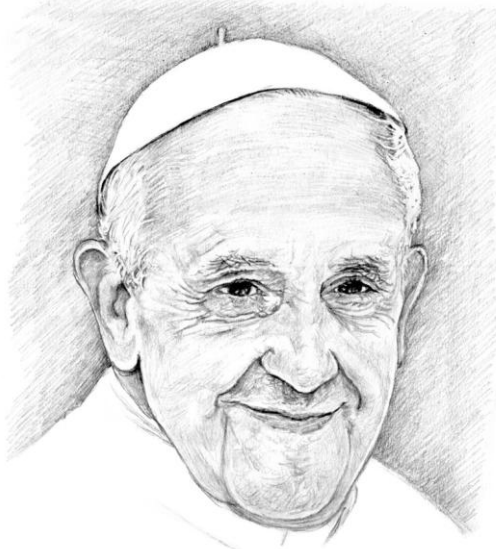
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 27th April 2025



POPE FRANCIS RIP

We commend the great heart and compassionate soul of Pope Francis to the Lord as he returns to the Father's House, having faithfully completed the mission given him by the Lord as the successor of St Peter. We unite as the Catholic community across our diocese in prayer for the repose of his soul. Each of us will have a unique memory of his impact on us personally or on our world. If you would like to leave a digital message in our diocesan book of condolence, please visit: www.northamptondiocese.org/book-of-condolence. The 8.15am Mass today and this Wednesday at 10.45am will be offered for the repose of his soul.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

St Joseph's Friendship Circle meet this Wednesday in the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. All are welcome to join together in friendship.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Pope Francis, RIP
9.30am Special Intention
11.00am Catherine & Michael Micallef, RIP
6.30pm Marian Devaney

Monday *St George*

10.45am Bill & Teresa Conway, RIP

Tuesday *St Catherine of Siena*

7.30am Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP

10.45am Eily Cusack, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

7.30am Ellen Hardwick

10.45am Pope Francis, RIP

Thursday *St Joseph the Worker*

10.45am In Thanksgiving: Bino & Biji

Friday *St Athanasius*

10.45am Margaret Fanthome, RIP

Saturday *SS Philip & James*

10.45am Irena K

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Michael Hendry, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give praise to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

This Sunday is the feast of Divine Mercy, when we recall and celebrate the great mercy of God revealed in Christ. There will be an afternoon of prayer and devotion in St Joseph's, starting at 2.45pm with the blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, followed by the 3 o'clock prayer, Chaplet, Benediction and the Consecration Prayer. Confessions will be available afterwards.

DEVELOPING OUR FAITH

Please visit our parish website, where you will find various links offering opportunities to discover more about our Catholic faith. Click on the Prayer Life heading and go to Exploring the Catholic Faith: www.stjosephsbedford.org/exploring-the-catholic-faith.

PARENTS MEETING

The parents of our first Communion children are asked to attend a meeting this Thursday in St Joseph's church at 7.00pm. Thank you.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

Our intrepid walkers have completed just over 1000km! Please pay monies promised. Mark your payment Lent Walk. Thank you and thanks to our walkers.

CAKE SALE

The Cake Sale has been moved to Sunday 11th May in St Joseph's Guild Room after all Masses and Saturday 10th May in Our Lady's, Kempston, in aid of Mary's Meals. Homemade cakes preferable, please. Please label cakes with any allergy warnings and deliver them suitably wrapped to the presbytery before the Sunday and to Our Lady's on the day. Thank you in anticipation.

VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY SUPPER

Join us for a patriotic evening to celebrate this special anniversary on Friday 16th May at 7.30pm in the Guild Room at St Joseph's. The evening will include a lasagne supper and the cost is just £5 per person with profits in aid of our parish project, Mary's Meals, along with an Olde Tyme Singalong. Please bring your own drinks and an extra £1 or £2 for the raffle. We expect demand to be high, and we can only seat 40. So we will allocate tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. The £5 must be paid when you book your tickets. Please book by phoning Nigel on 07780 617057.

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: SS Philip & James & Holy Cross at 7.45am from Holy Cross Church. St Joseph/Our Lady's and Christ the King (bus stand at Midland Rd train station) at 8.15am. If interested in going, please give your name and fare to Mary Frost. Contact Number: 304014 or 07708 264054 as soon as possible.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Pope Francis, Sylvia Guerin, Margaret Fanthome and Louis Joseph. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

There is a 'wow' factor about Easter. It's because Easter is so contrary to what happened on Good Friday when life was put to death and all seemed ended. Jesus' enemies were filled with glee; his disciples with despair. Their hope was taken down from the cross and buried. They were crushed! Death had claimed another victim and won another victory. Jesus had promised so much but in the end failed to deliver. All that was left of their hopes was the silence of the grave. But then, but then, the 'wow' factor; the surprise and the wonder of the resurrection. No one expected it, certainly not his disciples. It was a shattering earthquake that changed the world for time and eternity. The after-shocks of which we feel to the present day by all who believe. Faith alone can discern the magnitude of that first Easter. The mourning veil covering all nations has been lifted. No longer are we destined to live our few short years before the cold hand of death claims us. Death now is the gateway to life, life in all its fullness. Not a life of interminable years as experienced on this earth. That would be unendurable. But life into which we are immersed and enwrapped by infinite love outside the temporality that imprisons us here on earth. Time no longer exists and we enter into a new way of being. And this is what we are made for; there is no other purpose to our existence, no other goal but union with the infinite God. Wow! Making our way there is the journey of faith and the Church exists for this very purpose, assisting us along the way. Availing ourselves of her guidance and help assures us of journey's end. We keep that sense of wonder and awe alive by pondering prayerfully the mystery of Easter, the tremendous fact that God in Christ experienced death himself and by his cross and resurrection removed its power. "*O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting?*" (1 Cor. 15:55). We are an Easter people; we are the people of the resurrection, even as we live this mortal life. This is the reason for our hope and our joy. Death remains painful and sad, but it does not have the final say. Therefore, as St Paul says, we do not grieve like people who have no hope (1 Thess. 4:13). Our Easter faith is the light that enlightens our darkness and leads us back to the Father's house and the life of the blessed, where many familiar faces of deceased loved ones will be there to greet us. Wow!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £3240.50
Good Friday	St Joseph's £990.64

Our Lady's £499.76
Our Lady's £328.92

Thank you