

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st June 2025



CAFOD ICON

In order to celebrate the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, CAFOD commissioned an icon from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and the Bishops' Conference has adopted it as its official icon for the Jubilee. The icon is on display during the Masses today except the evening Mass when it will be travelling to another designated parish in the diocese.

FIRST COMMUNION MASS

We have our second First Holy Communion Mass this Saturday in St Joseph's at 2pm. Again, please keep these children in your prayers on this special day for them and their families. We thank especially our parish catechists who have worked hard to prepare the children for the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion and the parents who have supported them.

SINGERS 11AM MASS

A short meeting after the 11am Mass this Sunday and next to discuss the possibility of forming a choir at the Mass. If interested, please contact Hilary Wrack on 07460 360980.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Sylvia Guerin, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Mary Multaney, RIP
	6.30pm	Neil McGovern, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Sylvia Blackburn, RIP
Tuesday	St Charles Lwanga & Martyrs of Uganda	
	7.30am	Bob Mitchell, RIP
	10.45am	Catherine & Michael Micallef, RIP
Wednesday	Feria	
	7.30am	Michael Turner
	10.45am	Requiem: Anton Trstenjak
Thursday	St Boniface	
	10.45am	Denil Biby: Thanksgiving
Friday	St Norbert	
	10.45am	Ester Regan, RIP
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	Dino Michele Lionetti, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Samantha White
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Pentecost Sunday

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's parish are now available for collection from the back of the church. It is important to use them if you have Gift Aided your donations. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection today for the Catholic Communications Network which helps promote the work of the Church in the Mass Media.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

The Mothers' Prayers group will be meeting this Monday in the Reconciliation Chapel after the 10.45am Mass. All mothers are invited to join in this prayer-time for their children.

SPONSORED PARISH RIVER WALK

This will be at 11am on Saturday 28th June in aid of our parish project. It will be a gentle group walk at your own pace over some of the pedestrian river bridges of Bedford which will take about one hour, depending on your walking pace. If interested in participating, please pick up a sponsorship form with a route plan attached, from the table at the back of the church, and canvass as many people as possible to sponsor you.

CALLED & EQUIPPED

This is a comprehensive year-long formation programme providing a strong foundation in Catholic teaching and spiritual life. This would be suitable for any parishioners already involved in ministry or anyone seeking to deepen their faith. There are two introductory webinars for those interested on Monday 23rd June and Thursday 10th July both at 7.30pm. Registration links at: www.northamptondioocese.org/called-equipped or email Alexandra Shelton-Bourke at alexandra.shelton-bourke@northamptondioocese.org for any inquiries.

TEA & COFFEE ROTA

We are looking for help with the Tea and Coffee after the 11am Mass. If anyone can there is a list in the Guild Room with dates to which you can sign your name. Thank you.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Jean Petts, George Mee, and Anton Trstenjak.

REFLECTION

Surveying the state of the world today with its many conflicts, one can easily despair. We are fed with a constant diet of sad images of suffering people, victims of murderous hate. In the face of such, we feel helpless and hopeless. As Christians, though, we cannot give way to despair but instead appeal to a higher power for an end to these man-made tragedies. On our own, we are incapable of solving these evils. We attend to Pope Leo when he said in

his first Sunday address, *"God cares for you, God loves you all and evil will not prevail. We are in God's hands."* 'Evil will not prevail.' It's hard to believe when it seems to have the upper hand at the moment. The first disciples of Jesus must have thought the same when they helplessly looked on as he suffered and died on the cross. Evil had prevailed, or so they thought. But then the miracle of the resurrection! Can we not dare to hope for a miracle, too, in the face of the powerful evil that is war? I am convinced that our heartfelt prayers and the cry of God's suffering children will triumph as we appeal to 'the God who crushes wars' (Judith 16:2). We may feel helpless, but we are not. God is greater and stronger than evil and, therefore, in him we must trust. As we live in this world, we have to contend with the battle between good and evil, but not on our own. They are not equal opposites. That would put the devil on a par with God. No! God is always greater and will bring about his plan and purpose for his creation despite our wilfulness and opposition. We take heart in the words of Jesus: *"Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."* (Jn 16:33). Because he has already conquered, we can find strength and hope in him. This eternal perspective is important to hold on to. In this light, we pray perseveringly for peace, knowing that evil will not prevail because God in Christ has already won the battle. Man cannot prevail, and those who now seem so strong and powerful will one day be no more. As with all of us, death is their bedfellow. In the meantime, we have to look and work for a resolution, and our part is to pray for such. Our prayers, made with faith, are very powerful before God. Our Lady has often exhorted us to pray the Rosary for peace in many of her apparitions. Let us take her at her word and do so. We can't just leave it to the politicians to solve. It's not going very well at the moment! Our prayers must be the back-up plan, appealing to that higher power that can perform the impossible. *"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."* (Edmund Burke, 1795). We are those good men and women who can do something through our prayer and, most importantly, we ourselves be instruments of peace. In the words of St Paul: *"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ."* (Eph 4:32). This is the way of peace.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1607.42

Our Lady's £266.00

Thank you