

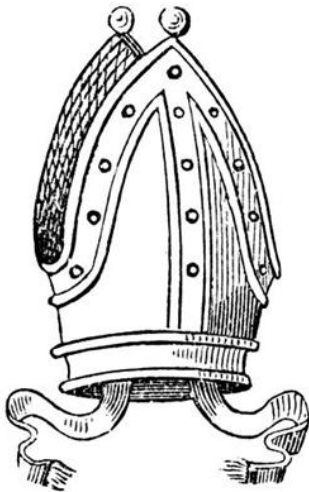
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 4th May 2025



LEGION OF MARY

Members of the Legion of Mary will be speaking at the Masses in St Joseph's and Our Lady's next weekend to briefly introduce their organisation. The Legion of Mary is a worldwide organisation in the Church and aims to be of help in the life of the parish in various ways. There will also be an explanatory meeting after the Vigil Mass at Our Lady's on Saturday 17th May.

CAKE SALE

The Cake Sale will be next 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.

CATHOLICISM - BEDFORDSHIRE

An account of the revival of Catholicism in Bedfordshire 1700-1900 by Mr Peter Doyle. Please take a leaflet from the back of the church for details.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Rosakutty & Paulose, RIP
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Finka Juric Kolak
	6.30pm	Roger Dickens, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	10.45am	Peter Fanthome, RIP
Tuesday	Feria	
	7.30am	Anna Maria Bejerano, RIP
	10.45am	Requiem: Alessandro Sansevero
Wednesday	Feria	
	7.30am	Teresa Moran, RIP
	10.45am	Sophie Gmajner, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Johnson Family
Friday	Feria	
	10.45am	In Thanksgiving: Bino Mathew
Saturday	Feria	
	10.45am	Norbert Missoka, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Mary Connolly, RIP
----------	--------	--------------------

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Price.

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: No Liturgy. Resumes 18th May

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

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the gift of peace in our troubled world.

SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection next Sunday at all Masses for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund.

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, and the £5 must be paid when you book your tickets. Please book by phoning Nigel on 07780 617057.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

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

CAFOD SOUP LUNCHES

Thanks to all who supported the CAFOD Soup Lunches during Lent and especially those who made the delicious soups. We raised £243.

EARLY MORNING MASSES

We will continue with the 7.30am Masses on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for a while if there is support for them.

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.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

These begin via live-streaming from Northampton Cathedral starting on Tuesday 13th May 6.45pm-9.00pm. The Holy Cross Church, Goldington Road, will be the venue for this area. Please pick up a leaflet from the back of the church for more details on how to register. Visit: www.northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2025

REFLECTION

The pageantry of Pope Francis' funeral was both solemn and spiritually uplifting. Whilst acknowledging the sadness of his passing, it remained full of hope in the eternal life he believed in and proclaimed in his ministry. May his good soul rest in the peace of his Lord whom he faithfully served. The funeral rites were a testimony to Easter faith, the hope that fills every believing heart. Such hope in Christ's promises, vindicated in his victory over death, assuages our natural sadness in losing a loved one. That separation, though, is for a short time only, which is why the funeral rite is full of references to a life that survives the grave. Such belief removes the sting of death, although it remains a wound that will only be fully healed when we pass through the portal of death ourselves. Death is, therefore, the final healing. Humanist funerals do not offer this hope, this healing, and so the pain of death remains like an open wound. In our funeral rites, we assert that the sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality and, for God's faithful people, life is changed, not ended. And it also asserts that *'all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death.'* Annihilation, extinction, do not await us. What awaits us is real life, pure life, eternal life. It is difficult to imagine such an existence. St Paul says, quoting Isaiah, that *"eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has in store for those who love him."* (1 Cor 2:9). We just have to wait and see! That waiting is what we call faith. We need to keep alive that sense of hope-filled faith by remaining close to the risen Lord in prayer and in our sacramental practice. Man rebels against the notion of extinction, and this is a good instinct placed there by God. To deny it is a kind of spiritual suicide. Life becomes empty of meaning and purpose. We die inside before we die physically. Our Christian faith is a lifeline, saving us from sinking into meaninglessness and oblivion. The Pope's funeral was a beautiful celebration of a life stretching into eternity. A proclamation of the victory of Christ over death in which we share and, one day, will possess in all its radiant glory. *Pope Francis, pray for us now as we prayed for you. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1979.56

Our Lady's £392.36

Thank you