

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 EASTER 11th May 2025



HABEMUS PAPAM!

We pray for our new Pope as he begins his ministry as the successor of St Peter. We give thanks to God for Pope Leo XIV and pray that he may be sustained and guided in his holy calling.

LEGION OF MARY

We welcome today at our Masses members of the Legion of Mary speaking to us about this 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 for those who would like to learn more.

CAKE SALE

Cake Sale today in St Joseph's Guild Room after all Masses. Also in Our Lady's today, after the Vigil Mass, in aid of Mary's Meals. Thanks to all who donated cakes.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The final preparation class is this coming Saturday in the Guild Room at 9.15am.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am David Herbert
9.30am Martin Nsoyuni, RIP
11.00am Michael Baldrey, RIP
6.30pm Amado Family

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Joanne Harrison, RIP

Tuesday **Our Lady of Fatima**

7.30am Johnson Family

10.45am Bill King

Wednesday **St Matthias**

7.30am Alacoque Murphy, RIP

10.45am Mary, Michael & Dee

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Paul Holmes, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Natalja Smirnova, RIP

Saturday **Feria**

10.45am John K. K. RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Marykuty Joseph, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Second collection today at all Masses for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund. There is also a second collection next Sunday for the Diocesan Bishop's Fund which gives financial support to our bishop in his work for the diocese.

VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY SUPPER

Join us for a patriotic evening to celebrate this special anniversary this 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.

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 Rd will be the venue for this area. Please pick up a leaflet from the back of the church for more details Visit: www.northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2025

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 IN KEYSOE

Mass celebrated in St Mary's Church, Keysoe this Friday at 3.00pm. All invited to attend.

REFLECTION

"Rivers do not drink their own waters; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other no matter how difficult it is. Life is good when you are happy but much better when others are happy because of you"

These insightful words of the late Pope Francis invite us to ponder more deeply on the meaning and purpose of our existence and indeed our ultimate destiny. What is observed of nature, that things do not exist for themselves, applies to us. We are not the reason for our own existence. Jesus himself teaches that it is only in dying to self that we find our true self (cf Jn 12:24-25). This is the paradox, but it is built into nature itself. The natural world does exactly what it was created for, but man does not; he rebels, hence the Fall and that disconnection from the great plan of God, resulting in the broken harmony between man and the natural world and within humanity itself. And so we inherit a whole slew of manmade problems that tear and wound the human family. In a phrase coined by Richard Dawkins, it could be called 'the selfish gene', that proclivity for survival, whatever the cost to others. Giving free rein to this is chaos and anarchy, which is why we have the rule of law. If we were to learn from nature, then there would be a more harmonious balance, knowing that we only become truly ourselves in living for the other, eschewing the 'me culture' which only results in discontent and unhappiness. Christianity calls us to die to the self and live by the law of gift. That's the challenge of the gospel. Jesus himself leads the way in giving himself to us completely in his death on the cross. But then his life is restored in the glory of the resurrection. He is the pattern we are called to live by. It is a struggle but always aided by grace and realisable, as witnessed in the lives of the saints. And they are the happiest people that ever lived because they discarded that 'selfish gene' and strove to make others happy in loving service. Learn to accept yourself, then, as a gift from God, whose happiness lies in sharing this gift of oneself with others, making them happy in the good we can do and the love we can show. This is what we are made for - it is being true to ourselves, and in this is our assured happiness now and for eternity.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1893.75

Our Lady's £253.09

Thank you