

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 EASTER 18th May 2025



FIRST COMMUNION MASS

First Holy Communion Mass this Saturday at 2.00pm in St Joseph's. This is the first of two such Masses and a special day for the children and their families. Please keep them in prayer on this day as they receive the Lord in Holy Communion for the first time.

CAKE SALE

The Cake Sale from last Sunday raised £275 between our two parishes in aid of Mary's Meals. Thanks to all who donated such a variety of delicious cakes. They all went by the end of the 11am Mass. Thanks to all who bought them and no doubt enjoyed them. I certainly did!

SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection today at all Masses for the Diocesan Bishop's Fund which gives financial support to our bishop in his work for the diocese.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Aleyamma & Joseph T.V.
9.30am Odel Bahoum
11.00am Michael Antony Ralph, RIP
6.30pm Salma Badri, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Mr & Mrs DiGennaro, RIP

Tuesday **St Bernardine of Siena**

7.30am Neil McGovern, RIP

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Wednesday **Feria**

7.30am Sean McConnell, RIP

10.45am Toni Trstenjak, RIP

Thursday **St Rita Cascia**

10.45am Mary Multaney, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Valerie

Saturday **Feria**

10.45am Johnson Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Marykutty Joseph, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will bless your name for ever, my God and King.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

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

YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Again, if you go to our website under the heading Faith Journeys, you will find the diocesan Youth Ministry Spring Newsletter. Lots of news about youth events in and outside the diocese. You can view it also by visiting: www.stjosephsbedford.org/nymo-newsletter-spring-2025.

SPONSORED PARISH RIVER WALK

This will be at 11am on Saturday 28th June. 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.

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.

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass next Sunday in St Joseph's to pray for healing before the Blessed Sacrament.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to Knock on 8th June for four nights costing £799. Single supplement on enquiry. Contact 01268 762278 or 07740 175557 or email: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the souls of Sylvia Guerin, Lewis Joseph and Anton Trstenjak. Sylvia's funeral service will take place in St Mary's Church, Oakley on Wednesday 28th May at 12noon.

REFLECTION

Emerging from the dead of winter into what is now late spring, mirrors the liturgical season of Eastertide. From the darkness of Good Friday, followed by the coldness of the tomb, new life burst forth in the resurrection of Christ from the dead; a new life quite different from this earthly existence and which will never end. The joy of this season should fill us and put a spiritual spring in our step. We are familiar with the gospel story of the two disciples walking with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus. He walks with us, too, putting new heart into us as we make our way through life. We will only recognise his presence if we, like those two disciples, who initially didn't recognise him, enter into conversation with the Lord, when we pray to him. Prayer is simply conversation with Christ. There is a time to speak and there is a time to listen; the very definition of conversation. This call to prayer is vitally important, especially if we want to come alive and not remain in the cold tomb of apathy and indifference. Along with our sacramental practises, our lives of faith will then become a joy-filled experience because the risen Jesus becomes our friend: *"I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father."* (Jn 15:15). This is how he wants us to relate to him from now on. Seen in this way, we will want to please him, to understand and see things as he sees them, to enter into a close relationship with him and to live according to his values (cf Jn 15:14). Knowing that Jesus is our friend who walks with us and never abandons us, is a sure antidote for a certain depression of spirit, discouragement, and of walking the road of faith with a weary gait. Sometimes we may indeed feel that way, but as Christians and, therefore, friends of Christ, it should not and must not be our default position. As St Teresa of Avila remarked, *"God preserve us from miserable saints!"* That would be a contradiction. Saints are joy-filled because the risen One is the centre of their lives, their companion along the way. Come to know Jesus, then, as you walk along; enter into daily conversation with him, share with him what is in your heart; make a home for him there until we reach journey's end, where a home has been prepared for us since the foundation of the world.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1442.87
Priests' Training Fund	St Joseph's £536.27

Our Lady's £585.35
Our Lady's £117.73

Thank you