

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Liam Castle.

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 25th May 2025



FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

This Thursday is the feast of the Ascension of the Lord which celebrates how Jesus, after his resurrection, returned to his Father in heaven. But he remains with us as he promised, especially in the Mass, to aid us on our own journey to our homeland in heaven. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation**.

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 touring the dioceses throughout the Jubilee, making its way to our diocese from 29th May to 2nd June. It will stop here in St Joseph's before moving on to another Jubilee church in Marlow. The icon will be placed in the Reconciliation Chapel on arrival. From 6pm to 7pm there will be a Holy Hour and reflection. On Saturday it will be placed in the sanctuary for Mass and Eucharistic Adoration then, in the afternoon taken to Our Lady's for 4.30pm for a Holy Hour and reflection. The icon will then be returned to St Joseph's where it will be on display during the morning Masses.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Padraic Galvin, RIP
9.30am Mechelle Claxton
11.00am Liliane Simmonds
6.30pm George Mee, RIP

Monday *St Philip Neri*

10.45am Eunice Benn

Tuesday *St Augustine of Canterbury*

7.30am Pope Leo XIV

10.45am Johnson Family

Wednesday *Feria*

7.30am Thomas Goggin

10.45am Sorrentino Family, RIP

Thursday *Ascension of the Lord*

7.30am Special Intention

10.45am People of the Parish

7.30pm Katherine Wheatley, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Requiem: Lewis Joseph

Saturday *Visitation of Our Lady*

10.45am Patrick Walsh

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Annmary Varghese

Thursday 7.30pm Bernard Atkins, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes for St Joseph's parish are now available for collection from the back of the church.

SECOND COLLECTION

A second collection will be taken next Sunday for the Catholic Communications Network, which helps promote the work of the Church in the Mass Media.

VE DAY PARISH SUPPER

This proved to be a most enjoyable evening, raising £300 for our parish project, Mary's Meals. Thanks go to Sue and Nigel Anstead for providing the substantial homemade food and to the Armitage family for the musical entertainment. And thanks to all who attended...a full house!

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.

YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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 www.stjosephsbedford.org/nymo-newsletter-spring-2025

HEALING SERVICE

There is a short healing service this evening after the 6.30pm Mass to pray for healing before the Blessed Sacrament.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

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

SANCTITY OF LIFE ROSARY

This Saturday after the 10.45am Mass. All invited to join in prayer for this intention.

CAKE SALE

The Cake Sale raised £282 between our two parishes in aid of Mary's Meals. Renewed thanks to all who donated and bought cakes.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the souls of George Mee, Sylvia Guerin, Lewis Joseph and Anton Trstenjak.

REFLECTION

I returned to my Alma Mater, Oscott College, last week for a visit. This is where I spent six years in study and formation in preparation for the priesthood. There are fewer students these days but they all looked happy to be there and eager to complete their formation and enter ministry. Sitting at lunch with one of our seminarians, I was asked what advice I could offer him as he approaches ordination. I simply replied, "step out in faith." That's all one can do, really. No matter how much discernment and preparation one goes through, it has to be an act of faith in God's power and grace in the end. We are free and God gives us the freedom to choose or rather to respond freely to his choice of us: "*You did not choose me, but I chose you.*" (Jn 15:16). In my case, that choice was ratified 45 years ago when the bishop at the time ordained me to the sacred priesthood. Trusting in God's grace and strength, it has been a very happy journey, supported by people's prayers and love in the various parishes I have ministered. So thank you for your continued prayers and love. If we trust in God and step out in faith, he will always provide the help we need in the call to discipleship. The call to follow the Lord came at our baptism and it requires a faith response, which our parents and Godparents initially articulated. As we grow into our faith, that response is now ours to make, which we need to renew often. Coming to Mass each Sunday is our 'yes' to that call, but it also requires us to live it out in the world. That takes courage in a world that does not always share or understand our Catholic values. We are surrounded by secular values, but I have a sense that secularism has run its course and people are looking for meaning to their lives, which the secular narrative cannot supply. I think this was witnessed in the large numbers of people, in the majority of men, interestingly, entering the Catholic Church this Easter in this country, but also in other European countries and also America. Hopeful signs of new growth! Stepping out in this way is encouraging. The Church is alive and well! She carries with her the wounds of sin because the Church is made up of human beings in all our imperfections, but the abiding presence of Christ and our fidelity to him will assure her survival as he promised. So step out in faith and say 'yes' to God who has said his 'yes' to us in Christ Jesus.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1129.59

Our Lady's £197.20

Thank you

Bishop's Fund

St Joseph's £458.99

Our Lady's £61.00