

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

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

8th June 2025



CAFOD LENT WALK

The sponsored CAFOD Lent Walk raised £917. Thanks to all who sponsored the walk and our walkers. A very generous response which will be increased through Gift Aid. Again, thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection next Sunday for the Day for Life. Every year the fund allocates over £200,000 in grants to organisations which promote the Christian respect for human life from conception to natural death in various ways. In this way we can counter the culture of death in our society. Please give as you are able.

SINGERS 11AM MASS

A short meeting after the 11am Mass this Sunday 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	Martin Nsoyumi, RIP
	11.00am	Jean Petts, RIP
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday		<i>Mary, Mother of the Church</i>
	10.45am	Eileen Dolan, RIP
Tuesday		<i>Feria</i>
	7.30am	Vinceza Parelo, RIP
	10.45am	Margarithamma, RIP
Wednesday		<i>St Barnabas</i>
	7.30am	Bernard S David, RIP
	10.45am	John Moloney, RIP
Thursday		<i>Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest</i>
	10.45am	Mary Thundercliffe, RIP
Friday		<i>St Anthony of Padua</i>
	10.45am	Requiem: George Mee
Saturday		<i>Votive Mass of Our Lady</i>
	10.45am	Paul Grant, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	John McGettigan, RIP
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: The Most Holy Trinity

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

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.

ART RETREAT

Art Retreat at Turvey Abbey on Saturday 19th July 9.45am – 4.30pm. Cost £50 for the day which includes materials, refreshments and a vegetarian lunch. For booking contact Bro. John on 881211 or turveymonks@yahoo.co.uk or Sue McQueen on 07540 807695 suemcqueenartretreas@gmail.com. Pick up a leaflet from the back of the church for more information.

SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY BOARD

The diocese of Northampton is seeking a committed and experienced safeguarding professional to take on the voluntary role of Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Advisory Board. This vital position involves leading quarterly meetings, offering expert advice on safeguarding matters and supporting our diocesan safeguarding team. We are looking for someone with senior-level safeguarding experience who has a good understanding of the Catholic faith. If you or someone you know might be interested in this rewarding opportunity to help ensure the safety and well-being of all our Church community, please contact Danielle Dixon, Safeguarding Coordinator, on email safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org or call 01604 723514 for more information. Applications are now open, with the new Chair due to take up the role in December 2025.

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 can be found at: www.northamptondiocese.org/called-equipped or email Alexandra Shelton-Bourke at alexandra.sheltonbourke@northamptondiocese.org for any inquiries.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Jean Petts and George Mee. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Pentecost is an agricultural festival in the Jewish calendar, something like our Harvest festival when we give thanks to God for the harvest. It comes fifty days after the feast of the Passover, hence the term Pentecost, meaning fiftieth from the Greek pentekoste. In Hebrew it is known as Shavuot. It was on this festival day that the Holy Spirit, promised by Christ, descended on the Apostles at prayer and is regarded as the birthday of the Church. That same gift of the Holy Spirit has been bestowed upon us at our Baptism and our Confirmation. Not in the same dramatic way as with the Apostles but no less real. Who is the Holy Spirit? He is the third person of the Blessed Trinity; he is God. The Holy Spirit enters our souls and makes his home in us, guiding us, enlightening us, comforting us, confirming and strengthening us in the faith. He is our friend and companion along the way. Not, perhaps, easy to understand or envisage in the same way as the Father and the Son but, like them, a person with whom we can relate. The Holy Spirit is the animating principle of the Church; he is her heart and soul and wants to make his home in us to animate our lives of faith. Very often our spiritual lives can feel flat and insipid. The Holy Spirit peps us up and keeps alive that sense of joy and hope that belongs to a living faith. Invoke him often in prayer. As Jesus says: *“the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”* (Lk 11:13). God will never refuse such a request, such a gift. We need this gift not only to animate us but to lead us into all truth, which is needed in a confusing world: *“The Holy Spirit will lead you into the complete truth.”* (Jn16:13). He will give us that understanding which we ourselves are unable to arrive at, just as he did with the Apostles. Make friends with the Holy Spirit. Invite him to be your companion and he will reveal himself and share his joy and become love in you, transforming us into sons and daughters of God. St Basil the Great puts it well: *“This grace (the Holy Spirit), enables us to understand mysteries, to grasp hidden things, to receive spiritual blessings, to have our thoughts fixed on heavenly things and to dance with the angels. So is our joy unending, so is our perseverance in God unfailing, so do we acquire likeness to God, so – and most sublime of all – do we ourselves become divine.”* (Treatise of St Basil the Great 330-379 AD)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1787.66

Our Lady's £515.75

Thank you