

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

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

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 20th July 2025



PLEASE NOTE

The Mass this Wednesday will be at 10am in St Joseph's.

RELICS TOUR

The Relics of St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew are available for veneration this evening (Sat) in Our Lady's and again this Sunday (20th) in St Joseph's church at the morning Masses. This is part of a National tour organised by the Knights of St Columba. It is an honour for the Bedford Council of the KSC to be able to present these Relics for veneration. We seek these saints intercession for our needs, the needs of the Church and our world today, especially for the gift of peace.

RIVER WALK

Thanks to all who took part and sponsored the River Walk which raised £85 for our parish project.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

As from Tuesday this week a Service of the Word will be celebrated in the prayer room of Bedford Hospital at 11am, led by Deacon Tony Quinlan.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Ann Glackin
9.30am Spec. Int: Anitta & Anson
11.00am Anne Da Costa
6.30pm Eamon Caherty, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Incoronata Ricciardella, RIP

Tuesday **St Mary Magdalene**

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Wednesday **St Bridget of Sweden**

10.00am Denis Blaney

Thursday **St Sharbel Makhlof**

10.45am Agnes Innes

Friday **St James, Apostle**

10.45am Alan Wright, RIP

Saturday **SS Joachim & Anne**

10.45am Remiyas, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Saramma Varghese, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, T Ndoro

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until September

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There has been a most generous response in adopting a Station of the Cross for restoration. All have been adopted now and leaving us with a surplus which will be spent on the Sacred Heart Image by the side-altar. It will take some time for all the Stations to be restored, so patience is needed. They will enhance our beautiful church once completed. Thank you so much.

ROSARY FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Rosary for the Sanctity of Life this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the protection of human from the moment of conception.

LIFE PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Pilgrimage to Walsingham for the Sanctity of life led by Bishop John Keenan on Saturday 2nd August. Coach from St Joseph's at 8.35am and from Christ the King at 8.50am. Cost £15 per person. Contact Mary Frost on 304014 or 07708 264054 to book a seat. See full details on poster on the noticeboard.

A MESSAGE FROM SPUC

At the end of June, MPs voted to decriminalise abortion up to birth and to legalise assisted suicide. These recent events have been a result of determined efforts by activists eager to expand the culture of death. At SPUC, we are as determined as ever to defeat abortion and assisted suicide, and we believe we can do this by mobilising adequate pro-life support. To this end, there are some postcards in the porch and the back of the church to fill out and return to the church if you would like to become more involved in the protection of unborn children and those at the end of life. Thank you.

BAKE SALE

There will be a Bake Sale after the 11am Mass on Sunday 27th July in the Guild Room to support a healthcare volunteering trip to India this summer. A team of Allied Health Professionals and nurses from Cambridge will be travelling to support cancer and palliative care services in areas where access to healthcare is limited. They will be providing hands-on care and training local staff to help build long-term improvements in patient support. We are warmly invited to enjoy some homemade bakes and contribute to a cause that aims to bring hope and healing to those in need.

SVP MINNIE VINNIES

We would like to establish an SVP Minnie Vinnie group in the parish. These are for children aged 7 to 11. If you are interested in helping to set up and organise a group, please let Canon Seamus or Jim Keane know (07753 612080). All helpers will have to be DBS cleared. Please take a leaflet from the back of the church with more information.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dinah Keane. Dinah's funeral Mass will be on Thursday 31st July at 10.45am in St Joseph's church.

REFLECTION

Having just returned from a week on the north coast of Ireland, plus a day's journey into the mountainous countryside, I feel reconnected to nature, God's open book. It has been a reminder to me of the beautiful gift of our natural world, given for our good, our well-being and flourishing. We can perhaps take it all for granted, but if we can raise our minds from our pre-occupations we will discover, or re-discover, the wonder of the world which we inhabit and give thanks to God for such a gift. And it is indeed all gift, just as life itself is pure gift to be cherished, protected and grateful for. We are in this world as stewards of God's good creation (Genesis 1:28) and not to exploit it to destruction. The same is true of human life, and yet we live in a society that advocates its destruction through abortion and euthanasia. How can this be called civilisation? It is a return to barbarism! Living in this world and observing the beauty of it can act as an antidote to the casual way in which it is exploited, and where life is easily disposable. Our Catholic faith should help us to view reality in a different way, in a different light, as something sacred, an open book to the Creator. Take time to read this book with the eyes of faith, with a contemplative heart and be touched by its beauty. We need to look up and to look around us and avoid self-absorption. Let nature speak to us through its silent beauty, and if we look and listen carefully we will detect the hand of the great artist who designed it all. The words of A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh come to mind: "*Sometimes I sits and thinks, and sometimes I just sits.*" This reflects a simple truth; a call to be simply present in the moment without the necessity of being engaged in active thought. The experience will help us to appreciate what is, our natural world, with a sense of wonder and gratitude and the realisation that we are all part of it, we are the wonder and beauty of nature ourselves, not separate from it. All is gift to be received with gratitude, especially the beautiful gift of life itself. Maybe during this holiday period we can take the opportunity to re-engage with what the eye does not always see, nor the ear hear, nor the heart conceive, and return, as I did, with a grateful heart and a mind refreshed. '*The heavens proclaim the glory of the Lord and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.*' Psalm 19.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory
Stella Maris

St Joseph's £1482.17
St Joseph's £460.48

Our Lady's £405.71
Our Lady's £53.90

Thank you