

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

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

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**SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
27th July 2025



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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

A new prayer and event publicity service initiative has been launched in Bedford by a Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group which meets twice a month in SS Philip & James Church. It is launching a Facebook page where we can instantly post prayer requests and also advertise local Catholic events. Please see poster for further details and pick up a flyer from the back of the church.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Dinah Keane, RIP
	9.30am	Errol Vertanness, RIP
	11.00am	Katie Kissack
	6.30pm	Imelda Hope
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Fr Patrick Slaney
Tuesday	<i>SS Martha, Mary & Lazarus</i>	
	10.45am	Regina Chanpda
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Jackie Marsh, RIP
Thursday	<i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Dinah Keane
Friday	<i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	
	10.45am	Damian Fernando, RIP
Saturday	<i>St Peter Julian Eymard</i>	
	10.45am	Supriyon David, RIP
Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston		
Saturday	6.00pm	Robert Aerts, RIP

**Confessions – St Joseph's:
Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Eighteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None until September

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets this Wednesday at 7pm in the Embankment Hotel. All welcome to join and socialise and meet fellow parishioners. Bring a friend.

SVP MINNIE VINNIES

We would like to establish a 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.

BAKE SALE

There is a Bake Sale after the 11am Mass today 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. Tea and coffee also served.

ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD

SFLG is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity, founded in 1895 and with Cardinal Vincent Nichols as its patron. It supports over 30 centres in 13 countries caring for people who have been marginalised by leprosy. It also funds research projects and hospitals in the treatment of this disease. For more information, please visit www.stfrancisleprosy.org or email parishes@stfrancisleprosy.org. See also poster in the church porch.

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.

REFLECTION

Looking through some old photos of my parents recently and their generation, I was struck by the passage of time and how fleeting life is. Photos are a moment frozen in time, but time doesn't stay still; it relentlessly moves on and we move with it. All my parents' generation has passed on, and I miss them. I want to see them again and enjoy their company once more with no fear of separation.

That day awaits me and all of us in heaven. Thank God for our faith that assures us of this. The fleeting nature of life should, at the same time, give us pause to reflect on how we live our lives in a passing world. So much of our time can be consumed with just getting by. Its demands are numerous and, like Martha in last week's gospel, we worry and fret about so many things without giving thought to the fact that this, too, shall pass. An imbalance creeps in, giving rise to stress and anxiety and a certain melancholy. Becoming so immersed in the present in this way can obscure the meaning and purpose of our existence. Getting that necessary balance is tricky because we can't accurately forecast the future. Who knows, but God can call us at any time to himself. Life is short, however long we may live. I think there is wisdom in keeping before our minds the shortness of our lives when it comes to getting that balance which prevents us from becoming depressed and experiencing a sense of hopelessness. In the words of psalm 89: *"Our days are over like a sigh...they pass quickly and we are gone. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart."* There is wisdom of heart rather than morbidity in keeping in mind the shortness of life. It helps in putting things into proper perspective, knowing the transitory nature of our time on earth. As the song goes: *"One day at a time, sweet Jesus."* Perhaps that should be our mantra, indeed our prayer, especially when life is tough. Prayer is the great antidote to meaninglessness because it opens the heart to an eternal perspective; to a landscape very different to what we now experience. Returning to Psalm 89: *"Before the mountains were born or the earth or the world brought forth, you are God, without beginning or end... To your eyes, a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night."* God lives outside of time and so sees all things at once and, therefore, looks upon us from that eternal perspective. He knows what is best for us as a loving father, and so we can entrust ourselves to him in all the circumstances of our lives. Go to him, confide in him, reach out to him and allow him to lift you up and hold you as any good father would. It's a matter of trust and childlike humility. Life is short! Let that truth shape our minds and hearts, and so find in God life's meaning and purpose and ultimate destiny.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1536.67

Our Lady's £842.78

Thank you