

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

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

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 10th August 2025



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

We celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven this Friday. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. This feast recalls the singular grace of Our Lady's assumption body and soul into the kingdom of heaven. From there, she continues her motherly role of praying for us and caring for us, her children. Let us resolve to grow in faith and holiness in obedience to God, like Mary, and so join her one day in the glory of our true home in heaven.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

Enrolment forms for First Holy Communion Classes beginning in the autumn are now available from the sacristy. Child must be in year 3 or above. Completed form must be returned by Sunday, 28th September.

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass today to pray for healing before the Blessed Sacrament.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Fr Derek Laverty
11.00am Bennie Blackburn
6.30pm Paul Loonam, RIP

Monday *St Clare*

10.45am Walter Higgins, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Paolo Migciorini, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Niko Kissack

Thursday *St Maximilian Kolbe*

10.45am Requiem: Helen Hindle

Friday *Assumption of Our Lady*

7.30am People of the Parish
10.45am Des Orr, RIP
7.30pm Freda Nugent, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Bob Mitchell, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mary O'Connor, RIP
Friday 7.30pm Dinah Keane, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, M Golomingi

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Twentieth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: None until September

AFTERNOON TEA

We are invited to an ecumenical Afternoon Tea at St Andrew's Vicarage Garden, 1 St Edmond Road today, 10th August, at 3.00pm. Bring scones or cake plus a chair. Tea and coffee provided. If the weather is wet,

the Tea will be in St Andrew's Church Centre. All are welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING

We need more volunteers to help clean St Joseph's church. This is operated on a rota basis usually after the 10.45am Mass each Friday. Please inform Canon Seamus if interested in helping.

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.

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.

FOSTERING

Fostering Options has been helping children find safe, loving homes since 2002. They are based in Milton Keynes and are part of a small group called Futures for Children, a team that puts children and carers first. The team includes people who have been foster carers, social workers and even someone who grew up in care. There are different types of fostering to suit your lifestyle. Some carers foster full-time, while others do short-term care like weekends or emergency support. You can even fit fostering around your job, depending on the type you choose. Full training given and regular payments plus extra help when needed. For more information, call 0800 4084710 or visit: www.fostering-options.org.

REFLECTION

It was heartening to see one million young people gather around Pope Leo last week at a Mass concluding the Jubilee Year for Youth in Rome. An inspiring sight! Even the secular media got hold of it. It is a sign that the Church is alive and well and not moribund as some might think. The Church remains a moral and faith influencer. Indeed, part of the Jubilee Year involved Catholic media

influencers being invited to the Vatican in recognition of their contribution to spreading the gospel message and Catholic teaching through the many digital platforms. You might like to visit some of them on our parish website under the heading, Prayer Life: Exploring the Catholic Faith. Another positive sign of new growth and interest in the Church is the increase of those, mainly young people, seeking entrance into the Catholic Church, especially this year, both in Europe and America. The Spirit is moving and constantly refreshing and renewing the Church in each generation, inspiring new movements and leading enquiring minds to the faith. As St Augustine says, *"If you want to remain young, seek Christ."* He keeps us young at heart. Yes, we grow older each passing year and we feel the effects of it, but spiritually, we are being constantly renewed, keeping us from going stale in our faith and looking forward to eternal youth after we leave the shores of this world. In the meantime, rejoice in the gift of faith, live it and celebrate it. Make others envious of our good fortune and draw them to Jesus. Just look at the sea of young people gathered in Rome to celebrate their faith with the Holy Father and the many thousands of young gathered in Medjugorje last week for the Youth Festival, and rejoice and give thanks. Our Catholic faith does not grow old and stale because Christ never ages or fades. He is, as St Augustine puts it, that *"Beauty so ancient and so new."* United to him will keep alive our faith and prevent us from succumbing to the weariness of life, to being pilgrims of hope because we know what we are about and where we are going. Life is aimless without Christ. He alone knows the desires of the human heart, and he alone knows how to fulfil them. The world would like to write the Church off as irrelevant, with nothing to say. It has plenty to say, and more and more people are listening. Our world needs the light and the hope of the gospel. This is the mandate of the Church, and we are called to give joyful witness to it. Let the freshness of our Catholic faith and the enthusiasm of youth, no matter our age, fill our hearts and carry us through life, making sense of it, to the life eternal that awaits us.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Helen Hindle and Nkiru Onyejekwe. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1512.99

Our Lady's £193.20

Thank you