

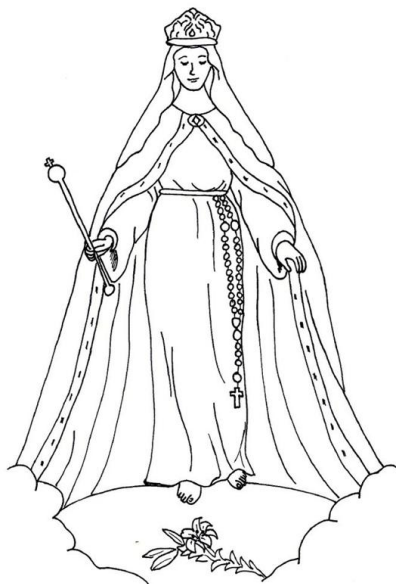
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 17th August 2025



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.

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.

CHURCH CLEANING

We are need of 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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Des Orr, RIP
	11.00am	John O'Toole, RIP
	6.30pm	Carmel Loonam & Family
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Zena Parren, RIP
Wednesday	<i>St Bernard</i>	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Thursday	<i>Pope St Pius X</i>	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Friday	<i>The Queenship of Mary</i>	
	10.45am	Johnson Family
Saturday	<i>St Rose of Lima</i>	
	10.45am	Mr & Mrs DiGennaro, RIP
Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston		
Saturday	6.00pm	Dinah Keane, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, make haste to help me!

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo, E Aoko

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-First Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until September

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The second station has been restored and two others have been taken for the same process. Once again, I thank you for your generous response to the appeal in financing this restoration which will also include the Sacred Heart image.

ADORATION

Just a reminder that we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Reconciliation Chapel of St Joseph's every Thursday from after the 10.45am Mass until 7.00pm. An opportunity to spend a few quiet moments in prayer with the Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, and receive from him many graces and answer to our prayers.

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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Derek Laverty, who some of you may remember from his time in the Holy Cross parish. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

DO NOT FEAR

'Do not fear what might happen tomorrow. The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.'

St Francis de Sales

REFLECTION

We are in the summer holiday season when we can have a break, if fortunate enough, from work and ordinary routine. It's important to get that balance in our lives in order to remain balanced ourselves! Down-time should be sewn into our busy lives in whatever form that may take. We are not machines! We need to apply this perspective to our spiritual lives as well, i.e. the down-time of prayer. Making space each day for this will keep alive our faith-relationship with the Lord and will also help us in our relationship with others, especially those closest to us. If our relationship with God is good, then that will affect, to the good, our other relationships. Generosity in prayer-time will always be rewarded by the Lord with time for all those other things we need to attend to. He is not outdone in generosity! I call to mind that gospel story when Jesus is invited to the home of Martha and Mary. Prayer is like inviting Jesus to step into the home of our hearts. Where he will feel welcomed and where, like Mary, we give our attention to him as we would to any guest who is invited to our home. It was a privilege for Martha and Mary that he accepted their invitation. But have you ever thought how Jesus himself must have felt privileged to be so invited, to be wanted? You know, the Lord will not force entry into our hearts if he is not invited, if we have no time for him in all our busyness. But when we do find time for him, he feels privileged and delighted that we have asked him, that his company is desirable. And when it is time to go, to leave prayer, imagine him saying, *"Thank you for our time together; it has been a privilege."* Maybe, then, prayer will seem more natural, like meeting up with an old friend with whom we can relax and say what we like to each other. This is what prayer is essentially: a conversation with Christ, who looks forward to spending time in your company. This perhaps sounds a bit casual and ordinary, but this is how he wants us to be with him, as he was in the home of Martha and Mary, friends coming together for a catch-up, enjoying one another's company. Make room for him in your heart, in your home, in your family and grow to know him in your friendship and familiarity with him. Each day then becomes a holiday or holy day, regaining the strength and enthusiasm to continue the journey of life and a longing to be in his company, one day, forever.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1587.83

Our Lady's £233.17

Thank you