

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

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

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 24th August 2025



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am John Moloney, RIP
9.30am Fr Derek Lavery, RIP
11.00am People of the Parish
6.30pm Paul Loonam, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Thomas, RIP

Tuesday *Blessed Dominic Barbarie*

10.45am Mario de Fabio, RIP

Wednesday *St Monica*

10.45am Danny Ferry & Family

Thursday *St Augustine*

10.45am Jean Petts, RIP

Friday *The Passion of St John the Baptist*

10.45am Eunice & Tony Benn

Saturday *SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward*

10.45am Mike O'Hara, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Chaston & Bolongaita Families, RIP

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.

ROSARY FOR LIFE

The Rosary for the Sanctity of Life will be recited after the 10.45am Mass this Saturday. All welcome to pray for this important intention.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets this Wednesday in the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. All welcome to come along.

MASS IN KEYSOE

There will be Mass in St Mary's Parish Church on Friday 5th September at 3.00pm. All welcome.

FUNDRAISING MEETING

The next parish fundraising meeting will be on Friday 5th September at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, M Golomingi, E Aoko

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None until September

MASS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Bishop David will celebrate the Annual Mass for Marriage and Family Life on Saturday 6th September at 12noon in Northampton Cathedral, to which all are welcome. If you are celebrating a special anniversary this year, please contact Sam at mfl@northamptondiocese.org. Also visit www.northamptondiocese.org/courses/celebration-marriage-and-family-life.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Derek Lavery, Mike O'Hara, Victor Inegbedion and Remigius Wamala. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

PARISH READERS

All parish Readers are invited to attend a short friendly meeting on Saturday 13th September in St Joseph's church at 2.30pm. We will discuss the future Readers rota, the spirituality involved in reading the word of God, the correct use of the public address system and for all of us to gain an appreciation of how best to clearly and confidently read and proclaim the word of God so as to maintain the great value of the readings for everyone.

NEW PARISH PROJECT

Our parish will be adopting a new project to support in our fundraising for the next 12 months, namely St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger. The hospice movement is needed more than ever for the terminally ill as a moral alternative to the drive to legalise assisted suicide, providing palliative and end-of-life care. The movement receives little support from the Government and relies, therefore, on charitable donations of up to 75%. Various events will be organised to aid this new project throughout the next 12 months.

INTERNATIONAL MEAL

As part of our fundraising efforts to raise funds for our new parish project, we will be having an International Meal on Friday 3rd October at 7.30pm in the Italian Church Hall, Woburn Road. We are looking for different dishes from the various countries represented in our parishes. Please let me know if you would like to contribute a dish. The more the better!

PASTORAL AREA JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

A Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Holy Child & St Joseph Church is being organised by the Bedfordshire Pastoral Area Council for Saturday 4th October with parishes converging on the church from different meeting points. For us, it will be from the Faces statue, Silver Street at 9.40am, arriving at the church at 10am followed by the Rosary, Mass Fatima Devotions with confessions and Eucharistic Adoration. Bring a packed lunch to be had in the Guild Room. Our church is a designated Pilgrim Church where you may gain the Holy Year Plenary Indulgence.

REFLECTION

"God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water." (Psalm 62). This psalm expresses the soul's desire and longing for God. We may not be able to always acknowledge or articulate it, but it is the longing of every human heart; the quest for happiness which can only be found in God. As people of faith, we know this, but the desire for God and union with him is often dulled by the demands of life and the distractions on offer by the world, full of enticements to suit all tastes and proclivities. Hence, that desire for the transcendent and the spiritual recedes as we get caught up in the immediate and what it can proffer. This is not surprising, as we are material beings in a material world. But, of course, we are not pure material beings. We have a spiritual component we call the soul, which also has its needs, which we must not ignore, and so give proper attention to. Attending Sunday Mass each week is central to this, supplemented by personal prayer. In this way, we keep alive that desire for God which will intensify over time with the practice of our faith. This work will require some effort and discipline in creating that balance between the material and the spiritual aspects of our human identity. If we are honest, there are times when we feel, indeed know, that despite all that we may have in a worldly sense, there is something missing, and we ask, *"Is this all there is?"* There is that nagging feeling that there must be more to life. That 'more' transcends what we now have and know. It belongs in the realm of the spiritual, and I'm not talking about some vague, ethereal notion but rather the reality of God made known to us in the flesh and blood reality of the person of Jesus Christ. He comes into our world to show us the way back to his world, the world we are really made for. It is there where that 'more' we feel lacking will be fully revealed and enjoyed. The key to keeping that hunger and thirst alive is prayer, which has the effect of increasing the sense of longing for God. We know how valuable physical exercise is for our well-being. The spiritual exercise of prayer has lasting value for our souls, opening us to the gift of joy and peace not of this world. Thirst after God, hunger for him and then, *"My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy." (Ps 62).*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1621.24
Assumption	St Joseph's £456.80

Our Lady's £273.50
Our Lady's £89.84

Thank you