

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

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

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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

31st 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.

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.

LEADERSHIP COURSE

The diocese is launching a leadership course, which is a year-long programme designed to form leaders for a missionary Church. It offers the opportunity to deepen your faith, strengthen your leadership skills and learn how to serve. For more info, visit: www.northamptondiocese.org/catholic-leadership.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Lucy & John Lopes, RIP
11.00am V. X
6.30pm Sam Wahbi, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Mr Thomas, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Wednesday *Pope St Gregory the Great*

10.45am Tadeusz Sliwinski, RIP

Thursday *St Cuthbert*

10.45am John Moloney, RIP

Friday *St Teresa of Calcutta*

10.45am Teresita Chandler, RIP

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Catherine & Michael Micallef, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Brendan & Josephine McConnallogue, RIP

Confessions –St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, M Golomingi, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mike O'Hara, Victor Inegbedion and Remigius Wamala. Mike O'Hara's funeral will take place at Norse Road Crematorium on Thursday, 18th September at 4.00pm.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

This Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for peace.

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 more needed 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

A priest acquaintance of mine died recently after 50 years of faithful priestly service. I first met him as a student at the seminary, and what impressed me was not only his friendliness but his infectious laugh, which easily bubbled up in him. This feature of his personality was mentioned a few times in the homily at his funeral Mass. It came from a deep and joyous faith which informed his priesthood. Genuine, spontaneous laughter of this nature is an expression of the gift of joy, joy in the Lord. It's a gift that needs to be prayed for, or rather, the result of a prayerful life. It's one of the by-products of prayer, a fruit of the Holy Spirit. My mother used to say that *"there is nothing the devil hates more than a good laugh!"* He must have hated my mum; she laughed a lot! The devil is miserable and wants us to be so; joyless and full of pessimism. A Christian can't be, for God has had the last laugh. He has broken the power of Satan in defeating sin and death. Yes, they still hold sway on earth, but their power is limited. Everlasting life has won over everlasting death, and so we rejoice! I think it was Hilaire Belloc who said, *"Let us laugh, for laughter is the one gift given by God to man and denied to brutes and angels. Let us laugh, for laughter is the crowning gift of heroes."* Now, of course, there are times when it would be inappropriate to laugh or times when we can't because of some sadness that has afflicted us. But what is important to hold on to as Christians is the gift of joy, even in the midst of sadness. If we have the Holy Spirit, we have joy, not always felt but always present. We must let no one or nothing rob us of that. So invite him in, pray for the Holy Spirit to dwell in you always. Then a smile will gradually return to your lips and laughter once again bubble up. St Teresa of Avila famously said, *"God preserve us from miserable saints!"* A deep-rooted faith unlocks the gift of joy because such faith is grounded in the presence of God, who is never depressed. St Paul tells us to *"be aglow with the Spirit, rejoice in your hope, be constant in prayer"* (Rm 12:11). That last exhortation is the key. Not that we need to be on our knees all day, but rather we do not miss those opportunities that come our way to pray. It is the gateway to joy! *"He will fill your mouth with laughter and on your lips with a shout of joy!"* (Job 8:21)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1801.33

Our Lady's £427.13

Thank you