

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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Ditto Devassy

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**TWENTY-SEVENTH
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
5th October 2025



CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

Today we have a second collection for CAFOD Harvest Day at all Masses. Please use the envelopes provided and fill in the Gift Aid slip, if you are able, with your donation. Thank you.

WELCOME

We welcome back to our parish Father Evaristus Bassey who will be spending a month with us.

PARISH QUIZ

The next fundraising event will be a Parish Quiz on Friday, 24th October at 7.30pm in the Guild Room. Entry fee £5 per person. A few light snacks will be on offer, but please bring your own drink. Do come along, show off your knowledge and bring a friend!

HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short healing service before the Blessed Sacrament this evening after the 6.30pm Mass to pray for healing for ourselves and others.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Patricia Herbert Gilbert
	9.30am	Fr Derek Laverty, RIP
	11.00am	Michael & Catherine Micallef, RIP
	6.30pm	Andrew Hinde

Monday *St Bruno*

10.45am Sylvia Guerin, RIP

Tuesday *Our Lady of the Rosary*

10.45am Joseph & Helen Osit, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Ashley & Cornelia O'Regan, RIP

Thursday *St John Henry Newman*

10.45am Vladimir Gmajner, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Eunice & Tony Benn

Saturday *Pope St John XXIII*

10.45am Dinah Keane, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Elaine McLennan, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: 28th Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Rebecca Lovesey & Mila

MARY'S MEALS

We have been fundraising for Mary's Meals for the past 12 months and you will be pleased to know that we raised £5,036.50 for this project. Many thanks for your most generous giving.

PARISH FORUM

The Parish Forum meets this Friday at 7.00pm in the Guild Room. The list of members is on the noticeboard. If there is a matter you want us to look at, please let me know before Friday.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Marcus Brereton and Pasquale Straccia. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

YOUTH MASS

Calling everyone aged 11 – 25 years to a Youth Mass celebrated today Sunday 5th October at 3.00pm in Christ the King parish, Harrowden Road, Bedford. There will be an opportunity to meet afterwards in the parish hall.

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 information visit: www.northamptondiocese.org/catholic-leadership. See the poster on the church noticeboard.

FR LIAM'S FAREWELL GIFT

Fr Liam would like to sincerely thank you for the most generous farewell gift collected for him, which amounted to £1318.50.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT

Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Next programme starts Friday, 17th October. Visit: www.retrouvaille.org.uk. Tel: 07887 296983.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of Heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Pope Francis

REFLECTION

Yesterday, quite a number of people from different parishes in the Pastoral Area arrived on pilgrimage to our church of The Holy Child & St Joseph and gained the Plenary Indulgence for the Holy Year, as we are a Designated Pilgrim Church in our diocese for the Holy Year. Not everyone can travel to Rome hence certain churches have been so designated as a Pilgrim Church. It might be useful to remind ourselves what a Jubilee or Holy Year is. The first Jubilee was declared by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 AD. It is now celebrated every 25 years and is used by the Church to proclaim a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation. The theme of this Jubilee is 'Pilgrims of Hope.' It is a year of hope and trust for a world suffering the impact of war, of injustice and poverty. Also, the grip that sin has on us, which robs us of our freedom as children of God. In the face of such, it is easy to despair, to give up on hope. But as Christians, we believe that our lives make sense because we are loved by God and that love does not deceive us. We are made for glory beyond the confines of this world, and this truth gives us hope. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines hope as the '*confident expectation of divine blessing and the beatific vision* (the vision of God face to face). This hope is rooted in our relationship with the Lord and is a gift we need to pray for. Without it, we can easily despair because man is incapable of saving himself, tainted as we are by sin and egoism. We need a saviour! Jesus Christ has entered our existence to redeem and save us. He is our hope! We look to him and not to ourselves, anchored as we are in the present, for God has the big picture. He sees life whole and knows what is best for us. We are in his hands and, therefore, safe. Surrendering to him frees us from unnecessary worry and anxiety. Surrendering our sins to him, as we are encouraged to do in this Holy Year in the sacrament of Confession, also renders us a sense of deep-down freedom, freedom from that which binds us and divides us from God and one another. The joy of forgiveness cannot be matched! Guilt is lifted and we are restored to God's friendship. Like the prodigal son, we have come home! Our life's journey is a journey back to the Father. We are on this pilgrimage path, journeying together until we pass through the Holy Door of the Father's house in heaven. This is our hope and our everlasting joy.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1614.14

Our Lady's £543.63

Thank you