

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

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**TWENTY-NINTH
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
19th October 2025



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, we stand united as God's global family in prayer, solidarity and action. We are called to be 'Missionaries of Hope among All Peoples' as everyone deserves to hear that God loves them and to be strengthened by God's Spirit. Please pray for missionaries and give what you can to this vital collection, bringing God's compassion, peace and justice to those in need. There are envelopes in the porch for this second collection today with a Gift Aid slip.

PARISH QUIZ

The next fundraising event for our parish project, St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger, 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!

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Raymond & Agnus Harok
 9.30am Carel Frankemolle, RIP
 11.00am Giovanni Caruso, RIP
 6.30pm Mike O'Hara, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Tuesday **Feria**

10.45am Joe Whyte, RIP

Wednesday **Pope St John Paul II**

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Ronald Madtha, RIP

Saturday **Votive Mass of Our Lady**

10.45am Michael Chaston, 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: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, P O'Reilly, E Aoko

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: 30th Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOEBOX APPEAL

Fill a shoebox for a needy child who might have never had a present before. Please take a leaflet to be handed out at the Masses which gives details and suggested items. Fill your shoebox and return to either church no later than the weekend of 15/16th November. Thank you.

LATIN HIGH MASS

Latin High Mass will be celebrated in St Joseph's church on Saturday, 1st November at 12 noon. Celebrant: Bishop Marian Eleganti, from Switzerland. Refreshments afterwards in the Guild Room. All are welcome.

ROSARY FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

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

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets again on Wednesday, 29th October at 7.00pm in the Embankment Hotel. Come along and bring a friend.

GIFT AID

Many parishioners give faithfully through the offertory collection each week. If you are a UK taxpayer, your gift could be worth 25% more at no extra cost to you. Through Gift Aid, a donation of £10 becomes £12.50, and we can even claim up to four years of past donations. Signing up is simple, confidential and makes a big difference to parish life. Please let me know if interested, in Gift Aid.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Marisa D'Ambra and Margaret Payne. May they rest in the peace of the Lord. Marisa's funeral Mass is this Friday at 12.45pm in St Joseph's church.

The Eucharist

'In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life. Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God.'

Pope Francis

REFLECTION

Last week I spent a day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham with a couple of friends of mine. There were few people present at the time and so we had the place virtually to ourselves. Quiet and peaceful, allowing us time to pray and reflect. I especially like the Slipper Chapel, where the statue of Our Lady is displayed and reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. Of course, I had to have a tour of the gift shop, too, which was well supplied and alluring! Walsingham, as a shrine, had its beginnings in 1061 when Lady Richeldis de Faverches had a series of visions of Our Lady, who led her in the spirit to Nazareth to see the house

where the angel Gabriel appeared and announced that Mary was to be the mother of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our Lady instructed Richeldis to build a replica of the house in the village of Walsingham, a request she fulfilled and which became known as 'England's Nazareth'. The shrine became a major pilgrimage destination in medieval times, with visitors from all over Britain and Europe. Sadly, during the Reformation in England, King Henry VIII destroyed the shrine in 1538. After centuries of neglect, the shrine was restored. The Anglican shrine in 1922 and the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady in 1934. Such places of pilgrimage are a recognition that another world has touched this world; many through an apparition of Our Lady or a place associated with Our Lord during his time on earth. In this Holy Year, we are encouraged to go on pilgrimage, if possible, to remind ourselves of that other world for which we are destined and to which we are making our pilgrim way. A pilgrim is one who is on a journey, and he or she does not tarry long in one place on that journey. We keep walking until we arrive at our destination, the kingdom of heaven. Along the way, it is tempting to linger and delay. The attractions of this world are strong and can lead us away from the path, towards all kinds of byways which are not good for us, and we risk becoming disorientated and lost. Resisting such pulls on us is difficult, which is why we have the sustenance of the sacraments, especially the Mass, and the guidance of the scriptures and teachings of the Church, keeping us on the right path, which leads to life. We must avail ourselves of these helps on our journey. The truth is that we live on a kind of knife-edge. We live in time but walk on the brink of eternity. We don't have a permanent dwelling on this earth. We forget or put out of our minds how brief and fragile our earthly lives are in the light of eternity. As St Carlo Acutis, recently canonised, reminds us, *"Our goal must be infinite, not finite. The infinite is our homeland. Heaven has been waiting for us forever."* That is our goal, our destination. Keep focused, keep walking the way of faith and do so together, encouraging one another in this great adventure and inviting others to join us. It is this understanding of the purpose of life that makes sense of it and reveals our dignity and worth as children of God. *'Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.'*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1514.74

Our Lady's £302.72

Thank you