

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

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

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**THIRTY-THIRD
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
16th November 2025



BLESSING OF GRAVES

Blessing of the graves at Norse Road and Kempston today at 2.30pm, meeting at the entrance to the cemetery.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

This charity exists to help the Christians of the Holy Land by raising funds for their needs and to support projects that will improve their lives. The Christian community there is small and struggling. There is an appeal at all Masses today with a retiring collection in support of our brothers and sisters who are the living stones of the Church in that land.

REFLECTION BOOKS

There are a few copies of my book of reflections at the back of the church. They are free, but if you wish to give a donation towards our parish project, you can place money in the wall-box marked Parish Project.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Ken Kavanagh, RIP
9.30am Holy Souls
11.00am Holy Souls
6.30pm Holy Souls

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Tuesday *Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul*

10.45am Holy Souls

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Holy Souls

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Alfonso Bacangallo Jr. RIP

Friday *Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

10.45am Holy Souls

Saturday *St Cecilia*

10.45am Varghese Parakkadan, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Holy Souls

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord comes to judge the peoples with fairness.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Feast of Christ the King

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathews

ST THOMAS MORE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mass is celebrated every Thursday during term-time at 8.20am in the Prayer Room at St Thomas More Secondary School, Tyne Crescent, Bedford. All students' families are welcome to attend.

CONFIRMATION 2026

Those wishing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation next year, i.e. Year 9 of school or older, are asked to collect an enrolment form from the sacristy. Preparation classes will start in January 2026. Any adults seeking Confirmation will be seen separately.

PRE-MASS REFLECTION

For the next 5 weeks each Saturday in Our Lady's 4.15pm-5.30pm with a showing of 'The Chosen' serial. All welcome.

INDIAN MEAL

The next fundraising event for our parish project is an Indian Meal on Tuesday 18th November at Indiya Restaurant, The Broadway, Bedford, at 7.30pm. The cost will be £20 for two courses and the restaurant will give us £2 for our project for every diner who attends. **Please place your name and phone number on the list at the back of the church and the number in your party if you wish to join us. Do come to what is always an enjoyable occasion.**

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards and other religious items are on sale today at the back of the church in both parishes. Any profit made from the sale will be in aid of our new parish project.

SCRIPTURAL STUDIES

All parishioners are warmly invited to join our weekly scriptural study sessions led by Fr Ditto. The next session will be on **Thursday** of this week, **not** Tuesday, at 7.00pm in the Guild Room, access from Church Street. These sessions offer a wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of sacred scripture and the related teachings of the Catholic Church, growing together in faith and fellowship. All are welcome.

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOEBOX APPEAL

All filled shoe boxes should be returned today, please. Many thanks to those who responded to this appeal.

CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS

These are now available for sale after each Mass at £2.50 a book. Prizes for the draw gratefully received, please. Money raised for our parish project.

COFFEE MORNING

The Chisen Foundation is holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday, 3rd December from 10.30am to 1.00pm. Tea-Coffee-Cake-Biscuits-Raffle at 25 Pemberly Ave, Bedford MK40 2LE. All proceeds go to the House of Hope project for special needs children in Ghana.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ken Kavanagh. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

I was reading a short account of the life of St Martin of Tours, a fourth century bishop, last week from my breviary. As he lay dying, in good old age, it is recorded that he neither feared to die nor refused to live. A serene and positive approach to those twin mysteries; life and death. A man of peace in the face of life's perplexities. How came he by such serenity? Union with God! This is what we are all called to. How do we get there? The practice of the presence of God. What's that? Like all the saints, Martin discovered that God is always near, always accessible. He will always be found by those who look for him. If we sincerely want him in our lives and not just a quick hello and good bye at Sunday Mass, then we have to invite him into our hearts every day. Once we do, everything changes because now we have a companion who walks with us in all our ways, who shares our struggles and concerns, who is there for us. Knowing this, we will be less stressed and anxious about so many things because we now have someone to share the experience with; we are not alone. Keeping this sense of the presence of God alive and real requires a little effort on our part in making time for prayer, and even if we are too busy for such we can pray as we go about our and daily routine, as we work, as we relax, as we put the bins out, get the children ready for school, prepare a meal, wash up etc. You get the picture? Our whole day becomes suffused with prayer before we know it. St Therese of Lisieux puts it well: *'Prayer is a surge of the heart, a simple look turned towards heaven. It is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.'* You see, once we allow God in, he becomes the centre of our lives and there creates peace. He is that still point of a turning world. So, no matter what may be swirling around us we can be at peace because he is there. It's an approach to the spiritual life that is accessible to everyone, especially busy people! Start today. Sprinkle your day with a little prayer, at work, in the kitchen, driving the car, taking a walk, doing the shopping and so on. Soon your day will become something sacred, something holy, and all this without having to spend extended time in prayer, although it may lead to such if desired. Be led by the Spirit. Life will become more meaningful, something to be lived and enjoyed and less of a drudge. Peace will begin to fill our hearts.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1516.18

Our Lady's £444.20

Thank you