

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

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

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

30th November 2025



ADVENT MASS

An extra evening Mass will be celebrated each Thursday at 7.00pm in St Joseph's during the season of Advent.

ADVENT BOOKS

There are free Advent booklets, titled 'Walk with Me', available from the book stand at the back of the church with scripture readings and reflections for Advent. Please help yourself to a copy.

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.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

The sale is now finished in St Joseph's but will continue in Our Lady's this Saturday. Profits made from the sale are in aid of our parish project.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Holy Souls
	9.30am	Holy Souls
	11.00am	Ann Watson
	6.30pm	Holy Souls
Monday	<i>St Edmund Campion</i>	
	10.45am	Nadia Soares De Brito
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Patrick Summers, RIP
Wednesday	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	
	10.45am	Eunice & Tony Benn
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	David Anderson, RIP
	7.00pm	Eliya John, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Grace Chacko, RIP
Saturday	<i>St Nicholas</i>	
	10.45am	Jean Petts, RIP
Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston		
Saturday	6.00pm	Ann Glackin

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, E Aoko, M Golomingi

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Advent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

ADVENT GIVING TREE

The SVP is asking for your help in providing gifts for those we visit who may not otherwise receive gifts at Christmas. An **Advent Giving Tree** is on display from this Sunday at the back of the church, on which are attached labels. Please take a label and buy the required gift. Gifts should then be wrapped, please, and returned with the label attached by Sunday, 14th December, to enable distribution for Christmas. Thank you in anticipation.

PRE-MASS REFLECTION

For the next 3 weeks, each Saturday in Our Lady's 4.15pm-5.30pm with a showing of 'The Chosen' serial. All welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION - FLOWERS

There will be a second collection for flowers for St Joseph's church next Sunday in preparation for Christmas.

SCRIPTURAL STUDIES

All parishioners are warmly invited to join our weekly scriptural study sessions led by Fr Ditto. The next session will be this 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.

CAROL SINGING

Everyone is warmly invited to join in carol singing at Goldington Tesco to support Bedford Foodbank and the Prebend Day Centre for the homeless. Time: Thursday, 11th December, between 6pm and 8pm, in the sheltered area near the Tesco doors at Goldington. People are welcome to drop in at any time and stay as long as they wish. Musicians and singers are all welcome. Contact Ben Mason at b.s.mason@btinternet.com. North Bedford Churches Together is organising the event. For more information, contact Colin at last555@btinternet.com.

HOSPITAL MASS

Mass will be celebrated in Bedford Hospital Chapel (Multi-faith Prayer Room), every second and fourth Tuesday at 2.00pm from 9th December. All welcome to attend.

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 – 1.00pm. Tea-Coffee-Cake-Biscuits-Raffle at 25 Pemberly Ave, Bedford MK40 2LE. All proceeds to the House of Hope project for special needs children in Ghana.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Kenneth Kavanagh and Noreen Egan.

REFLECTION

'The coming of our God, our thoughts must now employ; then let us meet him on the road with songs of holy joy.' This opening verse of an Advent hymn invites us to look forward to Christ's coming at Christmas. We look forward to this special time of the year, which brings joy to the world in the birth of this child. Even in the secular world, the dark days of winter give way to the light of this feast, bringing respite from the dreariness of this time of year when daylight is in short supply. In the words of St Francis of Assisi: *"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle!"* One small light was born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. As Christians, he is the meaning to our existence and the purpose of our lives. Our shared belief in the Christ-child must not be overshadowed by the usual fuss and frenzy surrounding Christmas. We can easily be consumed by it, leaving us empty and exhausted. Which is why the Church gives us this Advent season to focus on the spiritual preparedness needed in order to welcome the coming feast with joy and renewed hope, and not just a longer day in the kitchen! Christ came into the world all those centuries ago because he saw that there was hope for us, because we are saveable and wanted to identify with our fractured humanity, and so bring healing and wholeness. He calls us back from our waywardness to our original dignity and innocence as children of God. And so God became a child, a baby, so as not to frighten us but rather to draw us close to him. God is great, but he became small so that we might become great. We are made for greatness! This is what we celebrate; this is the essence of the feast, filling us with joy and gladness. Worldly merriment soon fades; Christian joy remains. To guarantee this, we approach the coming feast in a spirit of anticipation fostered by prayer, attendance at Sunday Mass and even weekday Mass when possible (we have an extra weekday evening Mass during Advent each Thursday at 7pm in St Joseph's), going to Confession, Friday fasting of some description, works of charity and fidelity to Jesus in the bits and pieces of daily life. Advent is a short season, but can be a very fruitful one if we get the balance right. It guarantees a more joy-filled Christmas, anticipating and welcoming into our hearts and family life the gift of a child who is God. *Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1541.08

Our Lady's £1239.15

Thank you