

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

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7th December 2025



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

This Friday is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and there will be Mass in Joseph's at 7.30pm with the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Buendia as the Principal Celebrant. Refreshments afterwards in the Italian Church Hall, Woburn Road. All welcome.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next class for the children preparing for their First Holy Communion and Confession is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room.

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.

ADVENT MASS

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

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Junior Chanpda
	11.00am	Larry Conroy, RIP
	6.30pm	Katie Kissach
Monday		<i>Immaculate Conception of Our Lady</i>
	10.45am	John & Hannah Chegwyn
Tuesday		<i>St Juan Diego</i>
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Wednesday		<i>Feria</i>
	10.45am	Nicolas Robles, RIP
Thursday		<i>Feria</i>
	10.45am	Requiem: Kenneth Kavanagh
	7.00pm	George Paulo, RIP
Friday		<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
	10.45am	John & Hannah Chegwyn
	7.30pm	Private Intention
Saturday		<i>St Lucy</i>
	10.45am	Mary, Ciro & Luigi Guerriero, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Sister Ansalam, RIP
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

In his days shall justice flourish and great peace for ever.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Advent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

ADVENT GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree has been stripped of all its labels! A few left in Our Lady's. Thanks to all who took a label and promised a gift. Gifts should be wrapped, please, and returned with the label attached by Sunday, 14th December, to enable distribution for Christmas. There is still an opportunity to give by donating £5 for chocolates for our Catholic prisoners in Bedford Prison. Place the money in an envelope marked Bedford Prison and hand into the presbytery or place in the offertory bag on Sunday. Thank you.

PRE-MASS REFLECTION

For the next 2 weeks each Saturday in Our Lady's 4.15pm-5.30pm with a showing of 'The Chosen' serial. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our parish Christmas concert will be on Friday, 19th December at 7.30pm in the Guild Room. Admission £5 in aid of our parish project. We are looking for acts. Anyone willing to do something at the concert can let me or Mary Frost know (07708 264054).

SECOND COLLECTION - FLOWERS

There is a second collection for flowers in St Joseph's church today 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.

RED MISSION BOXES

To all parishioners who have a Red Missio Box. Can you please return the boxes to any Mass in both churches by Sunday, 21st December. If you are Gift Aided, please write your name on the bottom of the box, as we can claim 25p in every pound donated. Please take another box home to start again for 2026. Many thanks for your support.

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 still available for sale after each Mass at £2.50 a book. Prizes for the Draw gratefully received, please. Money raised for our parish project.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026

The new Diocesan Directory is on sale at the back of the church for £3.50 per copy. Please place money in the wall-box marked 'Books'.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Kenneth Kavanagh and Noreen Egan. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

CAROL SERVICE

St Thomas More Catholic School will be holding a Carol Service in SS Philip & James Church, Severn Way, Bedford, on Monday 15th December at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

REFLECTION

A chief characteristic of our lives on earth is that of waiting. We spend a lot of our time just waiting for something. Then, when the waiting is over, there is something else to wait for! Great patience is required in all this because our natural tendency is to want something done yesterday! We live in the culture of the immediate and, as life speeds up, it makes us more stressed, anxious and fearful. Advent is a time of waiting, which invites us to slow the pace a little and reflect on what we are waiting for. We are encouraged to enter God's rhythm, leaving aside our hectic pace of life by being with him in prayer and quiet, pondering on the feast we are about to celebrate. In prayer, God waits for us! He wants our attention for a few moments and patiently waits for us to come to him. The deliberate act of seeking him out is always rewarded with the gift of his presence and the peace he imparts. And he is not hard to find. He lives in you and me, waiting for our hearts to turn to him in a look of recognition and love. This coming to the God who waits, removes that sense of emptiness and futility that can sometimes engulf us. We rediscover meaning to our existence and the joy of knowing him and his closeness and love for us. He is that joy and hope which was born into our world 2000 years ago, and we long to possess it now and forever. Advent gives expression to this longing and expectant wait for the final revealing of the God who has come into our world and will come again in glory. In the meantime, the yearly celebrations of Christmas and Easter and other liturgical feasts keep alive that longing, and act as beacons of light in what, at times, is a bleak landscape. Waiting can be frustrating in the worldly experience of it, testing our patience. You know the saying, '*All things come to the person who waits.*' Well, that is certainly true of the believing Christian who will be surprised by joy on that great day when the waiting will be over, and we shall see him, our soul's delight, he who has waited for us from all eternity.

'Wait for the Lord, his day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1696.84

Our Lady's £278.16

Thank you