

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 CHRISTMAS

4th January 2026



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

This Tuesday is the feast of the Epiphany and is a Holy Day of Obligation. The feast recalls how the Magi, representing the pagan world at the time, came to do homage to the Christ-child. We do the same by attending Mass on this feast and offer the gift of ourselves to the Lord. The Mass times are listed.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next preparation class for our children preparing for their First Holy Communion is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

SURPLUS GIFT SALE

There will be a Surplus Gift Sale on Sunday, 18th January, in the Guild Room at St Joseph's and the church porch of Our Lady's, Kempston (Sat 17th), after all the Masses. Donated items for the sale can be left at the presbytery and Our Lady's church. Proceeds are in aid of our parish project.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am People of the Parish
9.30am Mike O'Hara, RIP
11.00am Charlie Sterling, RIP
6.30pm Lancy Jacob, RIP

Monday **Feria**

10.45am Melvin & Flossy D'Souza

Tuesday **Epiphany of the Lord**

7.30am Carmel Ann Dunne
10.45am Bridget & Michael Slattery, RIP
7.30pm People of the Parish

Wednesday **Feria**

10.45am John & Hannah Chegwyn

Thursday **Feria**

10.45am Lilly Madth, RIP

Friday **Feria**

10.45am Sarah & Edward Abraham, RIP

Saturday **Feria**

10.45am Johnson Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Christine Cataldo, RIP
Tuesday 7.30pm Rosemary Mitchell

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings, E Aoko

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Baptism of the Lord

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until 25th January

CRIB OFFERING

Money placed in the Crib offering box is in aid of our parish project, St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The list of prize winners is on display on the noticeboard in both churches. Prizes can be collected from the presbytery. Thanks to all who bought tickets and donated prizes, which raised £998.70 for our parish project.

WELCOME

We welcome to the parish Renver Pena, a second-year student for the priesthood for our diocese, who will be staying with us for a couple of weeks. Meanwhile, Fr Ditto will be away on holiday in India for two weeks.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

These classes will begin on Saturday, 31st January from 2.30pm to 4.00pm in the Guild Room. All who have enrolled must attend, please. Adult candidates will be seen separately.

PARENTS MEETING

The parents of the children who are candidates for Confirmation are asked to attend a meeting on Wednesday, 21st January at 7.30pm in the Guild Room, please.

SCRIPTURAL STUDIES

These will resume on Tuesday 27th January at 7.00pm in the Guild Room.

QUIZ NIGHT

We are invited to a Quiz Night on Saturday, 31st January in Christ the King Church Hall, Harrowden Road, Bedford, at 7.30pm (arrive by 7.15pm). Tickets are £10, which includes Fish & Chips. There is also a limited bar (cash only), or bring your own drink. For tickets, contact Rachel Kirkham on 314093. See noticeboard for details.

BEDFORD FOODBANK

The following items are needed for the Foodbank: Tins of tuna, potatoes, fruit, and sweetcorn, 500g bags of rice, cuppa soups, bars of chocolate and bottles of fruit squash. These can be left in the green bin in St Joseph's and the box at Our Lady's church.

LUX WEEKEND

LUX is our diocesan residential weekend for teens that happens in February every year. This year it's on 13th to 15th Feb at the Kings Park Centre, Northampton, costing £110. It's for those in school years 7 – 13 and is a weekend packed with activity. Every year we explore a theme through workshops, dramas, music, worship, Mass, prayer times, games, inputs and time with friends. This year's theme is Belong. Visit: www.nymo.org/lux-belong-2026 or NYMO@northamptondiocese.com

REFLECTION

The beginning of a new year, the beginning of a new opportunity to walk more closely with God. If we don't walk with him we simply walk into darkness and confusion as witnessed in a world which goes its own way according to its lights and reason. Our way must be illumined by the light of Christ who has come into our dark world: *'The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world... The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.'* (Jn 1:9 & 5). This light is our guiding star, the person of Jesus Christ. Darkness brings fear and confusion and a real sense of loss. To be fearful of the future is crippling and devoid of hope. Jesus wants us to surrender our lives to him; our past, our present and our future. Once we do so, we will feel free because we know that we now have someone to share the experience of life with, who is our protector and guide. Someone, too, who wants to share the twin gifts of comfort and joy. Allowing the concerns of life to dominate us is oppressive; it is of the devil, whose only concern is our unhappiness. Keeping us enthralled by the world is his tactic, holding us captive with illusory promises of happiness, focused on pleasure. Pleasure is in our power, but joy never is. We can easily find pleasure in all sorts of different ways, some dangerous to our souls, but ultimately unsatisfying. We are made for better and for more, and only Christ can offer us that. He will freely do so if we walk in his way, the way of light. It would be a good practice, this new year, to resolve to know him better. How? Reading the gospels and prayer. May I suggest, as a good discipline, the reading of one chapter of the gospels every day, beginning with that sublime introduction of St John's gospel known as the Prologue. And not to hurry your reading, but to prayerfully allow the words to percolate in your mind and heart and so refresh your love for the person of Jesus and your trust in him. Then, when you come to your prayer time, the word of God will aid and inspire your prayer. This practice will not take up too much of your time, and somehow, miraculously, you find ample time for those other things which need your attention in your daily life. The Lord is not outdone in generosity! In this way, the person of Jesus becomes more real and close, aware that he journeys with us from darkness into light, a light that the darkness cannot overcome.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1426.79

Our Lady's £468.21

Thank you