

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

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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 25th January 2026



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The children preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation have their first class this Saturday from 2.30pm to 4.00pm in the Guild Room. Access from Church Street. All must attend, please.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets again this Wednesday in the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. All welcome, and bring a friend.

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.

FAREWELL

We say farewell to our seminarian, Renver, as he returns to his studies this Tuesday. We thank him for his time with us and hold him in prayer as he continues his formation for the priesthood.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Anita Barberio, RIP
9.30am Gus Orr, RIP
11.00am Jan & Anna Szynacki, RIP
6.30pm Jesus Youth Jubilee Ints.

Monday *SS Timothy & Titus*

10.45am Kenneth Kavanagh, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Anna Durrant, RIP

Wednesday *St Thomas Aquinas*

10.45am Margaret Brannan, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Vincenzo Sabatino, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Jack & Miles Connors, RIP

Saturday *St John Bosco*

10.45am Franc Rozman, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Mr & Mrs DiGennaro, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings, E Aoko

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

ROSARY FOR LIFE

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

HEALING SERVICE

There is a short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass today to pray for healing before the Blessed Sacrament.

SCRIPTURAL STUDIES

These resume on Tuesday, 27th January at 7.00pm in the Guild Room led by Fr Ditto.

24 HOUR ADORATION

From Friday 30th January, there will be 24 hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every last Friday of the month, beginning after the morning Mass and concluding on Saturday at 12.30pm with Benediction. All are invited to set aside some time for this prayerful encounter with the Lord. There will also be an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Confession. A sheet is available at the back of the church to sign up for a time slot, ensuring continuous adoration throughout the 24 hours.

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

Toiletries of any description are now needed by the Bedford Foodbank.

LUX WEEKEND

LUX is our diocesan residential weekend for teens that happens in February every year. This year it's 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

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Margaret Brannan, Michael Manley, Derek David and Christina Henry. May they rest in peace in Christ.

REFLECTION

The other week, I read this line in my breviary from the book of Ecclesiasticus: '*Call no man happy before his death.*' (Sir 11:28). A rather stark and pessimistic statement, I thought. But the writer has a point. No matter how content and happy we might feel, there is lurking an underlying suspicion or

tension that it might all end at any time, thus robbing us of that sense of security and deep-down happiness we long for. If we are honest, this feeling never really goes away, no matter how we may mask it, a feeling that is the source of an unnamed fear or anxiety. It's an uneasiness we can't quite put our finger on. Maybe it's because all our quest for happiness predicates itself upon the premise that nothing is going to change, everything will remain the same. Of course, experience tells us that this is not so. Permanence is what we crave, but it is always elusive. The loss and separation of death, a sudden illness, a broken relationship, losing one's job, family problems, the hurt of a wounding word, world events and so on. They all serve to disturb our peace of mind and that permanence we seek. The aching longing of something more, something better, is always there, and we are never fully satisfied by the things of this world, no matter how wonderful. This underlying feeling of tension serves, I think, to remind us that we are indeed made for something more, something permanent. That famous phrase of St Augustine comes to mind: '*Our hearts were made for thee, O Lord, and they will not rest until they rest in thee*' (Confessions). So all this can be seen as a healthy tension, pointing to that ongoing search we are invited to embark upon, resisting the natural temptation to put down deep roots in this impermanent world, which is always shifting and uncertain. Knowing that we are called and destined for something higher will not completely remove that tension but will help us to understand it better and so ameliorate its effects upon the joy and happiness that we do experience in life. Indeed, it will help us to experience them more keenly as a glimpse into what awaits us in that land where happiness never fades, and all tension and anxiety is no more. With this new perspective colouring our understanding, we can face uncertainties and sad days with greater calm. It doesn't shield us from them, we will still experience hurt and sadness, but not despair, because our hope is in something beyond, and that hope will not disappoint. Along the way, hope is our travelling companion, and hope is the person of Jesus Christ, our joy, our strength and our consolation. Enjoy the needed solace of passing things until we come to that place of everlasting peace and unalloyed joy.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory
SPUC

St Joseph's £1585.21
St Joseph's £393.69

Our Lady's £308.70
Our lady's £78.39

Thank you