

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

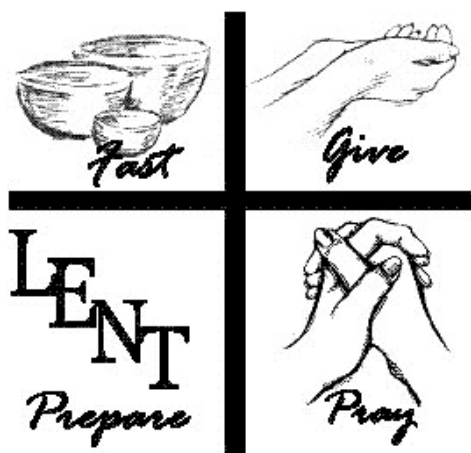
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SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

15th February 2026



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is celebrated this Wednesday. It begins the season of Lent with the blessing and distribution of ashes at all Masses. Lent affords us the opportunity, once again, to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to seek reconciliation in the sacrament of Confession. This special time reminds us of the constant need to renew and nourish our spiritual lives through prayer, self-denial and works of charity in a more intense and committed way. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (reduced food) and abstinence (no meat). Mass times are listed.

MISSION APPEAL

Many thanks for your generous response to the Mission Appeal last weekend, which raised £1109.27 from St Joseph's and £205.59 from Our Lady's, making a total of £1314.86.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Next class is this Saturday, 21st February in the Guild Room from 2.30pm to 4.00pm for those under 18 years only.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Mick Forde, RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.00am Margaret Hurd
6.30pm Patrice & Thomas Taylor, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Aleksandras Kausilis, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Eunice & Tony Benn

Wednesday *Ash Wednesday*

7.30am Margaret Craven, RIP

10.45am Zoshia & Alan Durrant

7.30pm Marie Peachey, RIP

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Gregoria Castillo, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am Francis Clenon, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Anne Warboys, RIP

Wednesday 7.30pm People of the Parish

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings, E Aoko

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

CATHOLIC HEALING & EVANGELISATION SERVICE

A coach has been organised from Bedford to Birmingham on Saturday, 28th February for this event, departing at 7am. For enquiries and bookings, please contact Mary Frost on 07708 264054 or Tessy on 07915 600495.

CAFOD TALK

A short talk will be given at all Masses next weekend in preparation for the second collection for CAFOD the following weekend, 1st March.

24-HOUR ADORATION

Starting this Friday, 20th February, after the 10.45am Mass, there will be another period of 24-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Reconciliation Chapel. This time, there will be a two-hour break between 1pm and 3pm to allow for a wedding that day. Adoration will continue afterwards until 10.20am the following day. A sign-up list is available at the back of the church. Confessions - 6pm-8pm on the Friday.

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES

As in previous Lents, we will be having Soup Lunches on selected Fridays during Lent in Our Lady's meeting room, Kempston, at 12.30pm in aid of CAFOD in its work to help feed the poor in different parts of the world. A donation of £5 is suggested. The dates are: Friday, 20th February, Friday 6th, 13th and 20th March. All welcome.

INDIAN MEAL NIGHT

Another Indian Meal Night has been arranged for Tuesday, 10th March at the Indiya Restaurant, The Broadway, Bedford, at 7.30pm. The cost will be £22 per person for a two-course menu, of which the restaurant will give us £2 per diner for our parish project, St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger. A list will be available at the back of the church to place your details and the number of persons who wish to attend.

CONCERT

We are also hosting in St Joseph's church, a Concert by the Kempston Choral Society on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, featuring various pieces relating to the Passion and Holy Week in aid of our parish project. It will take place on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm. Entrance fee is £5. Please give your support to what will be a moving and enjoyable evening of music and singing in preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

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 the peace of Christ. Margaret's funeral Mass will be on Thursday 5th March at 10.45am in St Joseph's.

SCRIPTURAL STUDIES

This Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Guild Room.

REFLECTION

The silence of winter in the natural world continues until spring makes an appearance with the return of growth and the sound of birds and insects in the air, along with little animals coming out of hibernation. That silence can be an invitation for us, in our over-sensitised world, to seek silence where the still small voice of God can be heard. We easily drown him out with so many distractions, some unavoidable to be sure, but there are others that can be switched off if we have the will to do so: television, endless scrolling on our phones, watching or listening to our favourite podcasts, music and so on. In many ways, we inhabit a noisy world, filling our days, denying us that opportunity to be still and encounter God in prayer. In Lent, we usually talk about giving up things like alcohol, cigarettes, chocolate, biscuits, snacks, etc. How about, as a change, fasting from unnecessary noise and entering into silence during some part of the day where possible, and finding the Lord in that moment of quiet who is waiting for us, who wants a little of our precious time just to be with us and get to know each other. It's not easy, it does require a certain discipline, but it is very rewarding. Just as we need to relax the body to rejuvenate, we need to relax our overactive minds and so become receptive to God's presence. We may be successful in creating a moment of silence, but then we have to contend with the many distracting thoughts that enter into that void. They are difficult to control and put aside, but the daily practice of creating that silent space will, in time, bear fruit. The void gradually begins to be filled with the divine, with the discovery of his presence, creating peace and healing. Lent means springtime, the gradual return of life, light and growth. May this be our experience in our spiritual lives by taking our cue from the silence of winter, to be silent ourselves before the Lord who wants to be found by us and to whisper the secret of his love for us. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "*Silence is the space of this Child. Silence is the sphere where God is born. It is only when we ourselves enter the sphere of silence that we reach the place where God is born.*" Let him be born in our hearts, let him occupy that space created by our silence, and there create peace. In the words of the psalm, '*Be still and know that I am God.*' (Psalm 46).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	St Joseph's £1621.15
Mission Appeal	St Joseph's £1109.27

Our Lady's £448.76
Our Lady's £205.59

Thank you