

# 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 LENT

8<sup>th</sup> March 2026



### Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Tess Cusack, RIP  
9.30am Liz & Joe Duggan  
11.00am Lucy & John Lopes, RIP  
6.30pm Raymond Cheng, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Bob & Joe Zak, Katy Szczurko, RIP

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Johnson Family

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Jenny Podesta

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Agnes Inness, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am Maria

### Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Josmy Gregory Johnson

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

The next Confirmation class for the children candidates is this Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm in the Guild Room. Adults for Confirmation will be contacted individually.

### CAFOD - THANK YOU

The sum of £1435.10 from St Joseph's and £202.30 from Our Lady's was donated in the second collection last Sunday for the work of CAFOD. A most generous response to this appeal. Thank you.

### BIG LENT WALK

A small group of parishioners will be taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk again this year. They will be walking every day in Lent and hoping to beat last year's total of 1000 km over 40 days. Please sponsor them if you can. There are forms at the back of the church, or below is a link to their Just Giving page.

[Parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-josephs-and-our-ladys-fundraising-page](http://Parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-josephs-and-our-ladys-fundraising-page)

### Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'**

**ROSARY:** Daily at 10.20am

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

**CLEANING:** S Masih, D Cummings, E Aoko

**FLOWERS:** No flowers

**NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Readers & Ministers:** Rota Week 2

**Children's Liturgy:** Bimla & Natalie Mathews

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross today at 4pm in St Joseph's and Our Lady's. A good spiritual preparation during this season of Lent. Three Stations have been returned restored, and the last two have been taken to complete the work, plus the image of the Sacred Heart.

### 'TOMMY'S GOT TALENT'

A night of singing, dancing, stand-up comedy and more at St Thomas More School, Bedford, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Tickets £5.

### HEALING SERVICE

There will be a short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass today.

## **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP**

The next gathering of the Young Adults Group (18-35) will be next Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, at 5.00pm in the Guild Room at St Joseph's (access from Church Street). Come along and share in the joy of being together, one in the faith. Get in touch on WhatsApp 07741 910990.

## **LIFT-TIME WITH FR DITTO**

There is an opportunity to meet with Fr Ditto for Confession, spiritual guidance or a one-to-one conversation on weekdays, except Wednesdays. Contact him via email: [joseph.ditto@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.ditto@gmail.com) or scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard in the church porch. You will be directed to a Google form. Please fill out the form and submit it online to schedule an appointment.

## **LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES**

As in previous Lents, we will be having Soup Lunches on selected Fridays during Lent in Our Lady's meeting room, Kempston, at 1pm 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 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March. All welcome.

## **CONCERT**

We are hosting a concert by the Kempston Music Society at St Joseph's church 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, 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm. Entrance fee £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.

## **MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE**

The proposed parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje this year will be from 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September. All welcome. Please book early to ensure a cheaper airfare. Contact Mary Frost on 07708 264054 or 304014 if interested.

## **LENT TALKS**

A series of Lent Talks has begun in Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford, each Wednesday during Lent at 1.00pm on the theme of Christ's Passion account in the Gospel of St Matthew.

## **REFLECTION**

*'Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom, lead thou me on. The night is dark and I am far from home, lead thou me on. Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step enough for me.'* This famous hymn by St John Henry Newman expresses the feeling of exile and loss, and that longing for home at last, to be safe, to be welcomed and loved. Pride and disobedience drove us out of the Garden of Eden, that paradise of harmony, peace and life which God created for our flourishing and enjoyment before our final union with God in heaven. Indeed, the Garden, which is the whole created world, was only an anticipation of what awaits us in that other world of eternal bliss. As Newman expounds in the second verse: *I loved to choose and see my path... I loved the garish day... Pride ruled my will...* Pride expelled us from the Garden. We thought we knew best what was good for us. This is the sin of our first parents. For a long time, humanity floundered in the darkness of sin and unbelief, a life without meaning and direction. God, though, took pity on our plight and sent a Saviour. Jesus entered our human history to shed light and reveal our true dignity as sons and daughters of God our Father. Despite our fall from grace, we were and are saveable. The one thing that was left intact after the fall was our free will. We are still able to exercise this faculty, either for good or for evil. Enlightened now, as we are by Christ, we can freely choose the good. Not always easy, but that is why we have the sacraments of the Church to aid us and her clear teachings. Prayer is essential, too, so that our personal relationship with the Lord may be kept alive and deepened. The serpent of sin has crept into our world and corrupted it in many ways through human behaviour, leaving it a darkened and peaceless place, no longer a Garden of Eden. Paradise lost! But all is not lost! We have a Saviour, and with him we can cultivate our own little Eden, a place of peace, of welcome, of joy and of love. Be carriers of these precious graces and drive out the ancient serpent, the destroyer of peace and the enemy of our souls. *'Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and he will come close to you.'* (Jas 4:7-8). And in the words of Newman: *'The night is gone, and with the morn those angel faces smile, which I have loved long since and lost awhile.'* We lost Eden, but we have gained heaven.

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

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|-----------|----------------------|
| Offertory | St Joseph's £1573.12 |
| CAFOD     | St Joseph's £1435.10 |

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|--------------------|
| Our Lady's £324.70 |
| Our Lady's £202.30 |

Thank you