

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

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

15th March 2026



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

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

CONCERT

We are hosting in St Joseph's church a concert by the Kempston Music 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 this Saturday, 21st 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.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next gathering of the Young Adults Group (18-35) will be today, Sunday 15th 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.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Albert Herbert, RIP
	9.30am	John Cooney, RIP
	11.00am	Arthur & Carmelo Micallef, RIP
	6.30pm	Francis McGovern, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Johnson Family

Tuesday *St Patrick*

10.45am Angela Wilson, RIP

Wednesday *Feria*

10.45am Leila Asmar

Thursday *St Joseph*

10.45am K.T. Abraham, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Daniel Reddy, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am Hugh & Patricia Patterson, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Aleyamma Varkey, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, E Aoko, M Golomingi

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

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.

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 1000km over 40 days. Please sponsor them if you can. There are forms at the back of the church for this purpose.

TIME WITH FATHER 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 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.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Scripture studies continue this Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Guild Room led by Fr Ditto.

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES

As in previous Lents, we are 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 final lunch is this Friday, 20th March. All welcome.

AFTERNOON VINTAGE TEA

Vintage Tea on Friday 27th February in Christ the King Parish Hall, Harrowden Road, Bedford, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Entrance £6. Includes tea, sandwiches, homemade cake and friendship. For information, call Myriam on 07590 558275. All welcome.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

The proposed parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje this year will be from 15th to 22nd 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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Charismatic Prayer Group meets this Thursday at 7.00pm in the Guild Room. Access from Church Street. All welcome.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Roland Carreon and Alice Klein. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

24 HOUR ADORATION

There will be another 24-hour period of Eucharistic Adoration in St Joseph's from Friday 27th to Saturday 28th March, starting at 11.30am on the Friday and concluding at 12.30pm on the Saturday. Adoration will be in the Reconciliation Chapel with the final hour in the church after the Mass. A list will be available to sign at the back of the church.

REUNION MASS

My ordination year will be celebrating Mass in St Joseph's this Wednesday at 12noon to which anyone is invited to attend.

REFLECTION

'Am I likely to take pleasure in the death of a wicked man, it is the Lord God who speaks, and not prefer to see him renounce his wickedness and live?' (Ezek 18:23). The Lord wants each one of us to renounce sin and be saved. This is his whole purpose in coming to us: *"I have come to call sinners to repentance"* (Matt 9:13). God wants us all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4). Now is the time to seek our salvation; a time of grace we call Lent. Let not this invitation and opportunity pass by, but avail oneself of the sacrament of Confession and experience the homecoming this sacrament offers. There is no sin too big that God cannot forgive! Many stay away under the false notion that God would not forgive. We cannot limit God's mercy. He has a right to forgive, and we have a right to be forgiven. Let us avail ourselves of this right during the time of Lent, for none of us knows what time we have left before we are called to him to give an account of our lives. His mercy is sure, and his forgiveness is certain. We must not fear approaching the throne of grace, Jesus Christ. *'I fled him down the nights and down the days; I fled him down the labyrinthine ways of my mind; and in the mist of tears I hid from him...'* (The Hound of Heaven: Francis Thompson). Don't hide from him but expose your soul to the healing rays of his forgiveness. Be at peace in the knowledge that his mercy and his understanding of our frailty is sure. Having himself experienced the human condition, he will readily forgive all that burdens our conscience. So avail yourself of this offer of grace and experience the great joy and peace of being forgiven and welcomed home as a beloved son and daughter, a child of God in the Father's house.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1593.74

Our Lady's £368.29

Thank you