

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

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

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

22nd March 2026



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Joan Martin, RIP
9.30am Paula Orr
11.00am Joby Mathew
6.30pm Bob & Joe Zak, Katy Szczurko, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Requiem: Roland Carreon

Tuesday *Feria*

10.45am Johnson Family

Wednesday *Annunciation of the Lord*

10.45am Mansour & Antoinette

Thursday *Feria*

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Sophie Gmajner, RIP

Saturday *Feria*

10.45am Bernard S David, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Dinah Keane, RIP

CHILDREN'S CONFESSIONS

Those children preparing for their First Holy Communion are reminded to arrive at the church this Friday at 6.00pm to celebrate the sacrament of Confession.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be a Penitential Service with individual Confessions on Tuesday 31st March at 7.00pm in St Joseph's church.

PARISH FORUM

The Parish Forum will meet this Friday at 7.30pm in the Guild Room.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets this Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Embankment Hotel. All very welcome.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

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

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection at St Joseph's next Sunday for flowers for the church at Easter.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am-7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: No flowers

NEXT SUNDAY: Palm Sunday

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: All in church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross today at 4pm in St Joseph's and Our Lady's. The final Stations and the Sacred Heart image are now restored and returned. Many thanks to all who sponsored a station.

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.

BIG LENT WALK-PART TWO

Today (Sunday), we are invited to our own Big Lent Walk, meeting in the Guild Room at 2pm, this afternoon, walking to the river to do a loop of the Embankment. We then return to the Guild Room for tea and cake and making a donation to CAFOD. All welcome to join in.

24 HOUR ADORATION

There will be another 24-hour period of Eucharistic Adoration in St Joseph's from this 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 is available to sign at the back of the church.

INDIAN MEAL

Thanks to all who attended the Indian Meal just over a week ago, which raised £56 for our parish project. A special thanks to John Moore for arranging the enjoyable evening and meal.

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

The last of the Lent Talks in Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford, is this Wednesday at 1.00pm on the theme of Christ's Passion account in the Gospel of St Matthew.

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.

ROSARY FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

This coming Saturday, after the 10.45am Mass. All are invited to pray for this intention.

REFLECTION

Easter is on the horizon as we make our way towards the events of Holy Week leading to the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is this mystery which gives meaning to our lives on earth, opening our existence to the infinite and eternal life. No more just our few short years and then death, but rather the beginning of life, the first chapter of a story that will never end. There is always an ending to our earthly stories, but not this one, where the story gets better and better, more wonderful! This all awaits us, and in the meantime, we live out this precious existence with its joys and sorrows and surprises, along with the tedium of life's routine. But knowing what our purpose and destiny are makes the journey bearable and brings hope and light into our lives. Faith is the touchstone in all this, a faith which is not some vain hope on our part or wishful thinking, because we follow someone who has made the journey from faith and has entered the promise. In his resurrection, Jesus has vindicated what he promised: *"Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."* (Jn 11:25-26). Yes, we shall physically die, but that does not mean extinction. It is, but the portal to life and a world we cannot imagine, but which is real and waiting for us. Keeping alive that hope is vital if we are to make sense of our time here and stave off that feeling of drift and even despair. Of course, the devil would love nothing better than for us to give up any idea of the eternal and keep us imprisoned in the dark tunnel of unbelief. Don't be deceived, don't be robbed of the hope that is in your heart. Stay close to the source of that hope, Jesus Christ. Prayer is the link, binding us close to Jesus. Also, the sacrament of the Mass each Sunday, when we celebrate Christ's victory over the power of sin and death. We cannot take our salvation for granted, though. God made us without our consent, but he will not save us without our consent. The call to repentance is urgent and should not be ignored or delayed. The sacrament of Confession is the doorway to freedom from the power of sin and, in the words of St Paul, to *'obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God'* (Rom 8:21). This liberty is what awaits us, where we shall live in freedom and breathe the resurrection air of heaven deeply. Living in anticipation of that day is the call of faith which leads to life.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1727.72

Our Lady's £339.20

Thank you