

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 EASTER 3rd May 2026



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	David Herbert
	9.30am	Mike O'Hara, RIP
	11.00am	Catherine & Michael Micallef, RIP
	6.30pm	Salma Badr, RIP
Monday	<i>The English Martyrs</i>	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Sister Antonita, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Bill Conway, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Mary Oxley
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Jeffrin & Alby
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston		
Saturday	6.00pm	Katherine Lloyd, RIP

CAKE SALE

Our next fundraising event is a Cake Sale on Sunday, 10th May, after the Masses in the Guild Room and after the Vigil Mass in Our Lady's in aid of our parish project, St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger. Homemade cakes, preferably, please. Cakes can be left at the presbytery or brought to Our Lady's on the day. Please label cakes with any allergy warnings. Ready, steady, bake!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

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

PARENTS' MEETING

Parents of these children are reminded that there is a meeting this Thursday in St Joseph's church at 7.00pm.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Charismatic Group meets this Thursday in the Guild Room at 7.00pm. All are warmly welcome. Contact Ted Fawcett for more details on 07561 424486.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, E Aoko, P O'Reilly, M Abrantes

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None until 17th May

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Scripture studies this Tuesday at 7pm in the Guild Room, led by Fr Ditto. Access from Church Street.

PARENTS' PRAYER MEETING

Parents are invited to pray for their children this Monday after the 10.45am Mass in the Reconciliation Chapel. All parents welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION

Second collection today at all Masses for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund. We have four students in formation at the moment. Please pray for them and for more priestly vocations for our diocese. We have another second collection next Sunday for the Diocesan Bishop's Fund.

YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP MEETING

The Young Adults' Group (18-35) next meets today (Sunday) at 5.00pm in the Guild Room (access from Church Street). Come and participate and share the joy of faith, friendship and togetherness.

BIG LENT WALK

Our walkers have passed the 1000km target, having taken part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. If you have sponsored them, you can hand your donation into the presbytery marked CAFOD Walk as soon as possible, please. Thank you.

CALLED & EQUIPPED 2026-27

Want to go deeper into your faith? Is now the time to take the next step? Our year-long Called & Equipped discipleship course begins again this September, offering foundation in Catholic teaching and a journey of faith formation, with a like-minded community. This course is for anyone active in parish life or coming into ministry. If you would like to find out how Called & Equipped could benefit you, please contact Avril Baigent on avril@nothamptondioocese.com.

FOR HIRE

The following can be hired from Franco Chanda 07848 899484: Chairs, chair covers, tables and covers, chaffing dishes, marques, canopies, bouncy castles, plates, forks and spoons.

A DAY WITH THE LORD

The Jesus Youth Movement in the UK has been organising 100 days of Adoration since Ash Wednesday. The final phase of this will be held in our parish of St Joseph on each weekday until Saturday, 23rd May. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the Reconciliation Chapel after the morning Mass and will conclude at 8.00pm on weekdays. On Saturdays, it will be from 11.30am to 4.00pm except on 23rd May. Confession will be available on request. Jesus Youth members will be coming from across the country to spend a day with the Lord in our church. All are invited to join in these days of prayer.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Oxley. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

In a recent address to diplomats assigned to the Vatican, Pope Leo observed that the world is full of hatred and that war seems to be back in vogue as a way of settling disputes between nations. A strong statement! We see this ourselves in today's world situation, where might is right, with big, powerful countries lording it over smaller, weaker ones, causing so much innocent suffering, death and destruction. The inane stupidity of it all! We seem not to have learned from our recent history regarding the futility of war. Very depressing! Then there are those who invoke God as they wage war, but as the Pope remarked, *"God does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war."* As Jesus reminds us: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."* (Mt 5:9). This must be our mantra in the face of so much hatred and conflict. But we are such puny mites before such mighty forces. Well, on our own, we are, but we are not alone. God is our strength and our refuge. And so we invoke him in prayer, and that prayer of trust will be heard and answered. War-mongers fall in the end; they always do. It is the meek who shall inherit the earth (Mt 5:5). This may sound fanciful and naïve, but so did the gospel when it was first preached. It caught on, though, and changed the world for time and eternity. And it still has power to change, to save, to rescue us from the power of evil and self-destruction. We will be blessed if we become ourselves peacemakers in our relationships, in our words and actions, in our attitudes and our willingness to forgive. God can then act through us and create a peaceful world within our little orbit of influence, creating ripples of love that spread out to all whose lives we touch. Wars and conflicts start in the human heart, but so does peace. Be instruments of peace and watch God perform miracles! Prayer, as always, is essential to this endeavour. Confident, expectant, persistent prayer. God, then, can make the impossible possible: *"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."* (Exodus 14:14). This is a call to trust in divine intervention rather than panic. It takes strong faith and trust in God, whose world this is and whose people we are. Live peace, be peace. Might is not right! The edifice of hatred and evil will crumble. Be still, then, in our resolve to be peacemakers, in our faith, in our prayer and wait on God.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1614.62

Our Lady's £525.50

Thank you