

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

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

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EASTER SUNDAY

5th April 2026



EASTER

Today is the greatest feast in the life of the Church and in the life of every Christian. This is because we share in the victory of Christ who defeated death. Christ's resurrection gives meaning to our earthly existence. We are made for life and future glory! It is this Easter faith which dispels the sadness and despair that can so easily afflict us in this passing world. We are made for eternity and so we possess the courage to live the gift of life as a gift to be fulfilled in the resurrection life of heaven. We live, then, in joyful hope and sing alleluia in our hearts.

THANKS

Thanks to all who helped with the Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Our musicians, singers, readers and ministers, altar servers, flower arrangers, church cleaners and others. Thanks, too, for your Easter cards (plus the odd Easter egg!) and greetings.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Ian Herbert
	9.30am	Anna Supera
	11.00am	Mike O'Hara, RIP
	6.30pm	Jon Corpuz
Monday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	
	10.45am	Jim Knight
Tuesday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	
	10.45am	Irena & Family
Wednesday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	
	10.45am	Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP
Thursday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	
	10.45am	Requiem: Joy Matheiken
Friday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	
	10.45am	Johnson Family
Saturday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	
	10.45am	Pasquale & Angela, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Sunday	9.30am	Rosemary Mitchell
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, E Aoko, D Cummings

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Second of Easter Sunday (Divine Mercy)

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: None until 19th April

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the feast of Divine Mercy, when we recall and celebrate the great mercy of God revealed in Christ Jesus. There will be an afternoon of prayer and devotion in St Joseph's, starting at 2.45pm with the blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, followed by the 3 o'clock prayer, Chaplet, Benediction and the Consecration Prayer. Confessions will be available afterwards. All are invited to this time of prayer, invoking God's mercy on this world, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Scripture studies will resume on Tuesday 14th April at 7pm in the Guild Room led by Fr Ditto.

BIG LENT WALK

Our walkers have passed the 1000km target, having taken part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. You can still sponsor by filling in the sponsor form at the back of the church. If you have already sponsored, you can hand your donation into the presbytery marked CAFOD Walk.

BACH & MORTALITY FESTIVAL

This is a festival organised by Bedford Music Club, running from 8th to 18th April across Bedford. The festival brings together music, words and reflection inspired by the work of Johann Sebastian Bach, and explores the themes of life, death and hope. There is a range of events happening in different participating churches and venues, including St Joseph's, with a short organ recital as part of the festival on Saturday, 11th April from 3.00pm to 3.30pm. Please have a look at the full programme and consider supporting some of the other events taking place locally. You will find all details of the festival on our parish website under the heading Faith Journeys, or go to www.stjosephsbedford.org/bach-mortality-festival

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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joy Matheiken and Agnes Inness. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

THE ROLE OF BEAUTY IN MORAL FORMATION

The Catholic Union invites us to a webinar on Monday, 20th April at 6.00pm, exploring the place of beauty in the moral formation of individuals and society. Chaired by journalist Catherine Pepinster, speakers include Fr Patrick van der Vost, priest and founder of *Christian Art*, and Stefan Kaminski, director of the *Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst*. Booking essential: Email info@catnolicunion.org.uk to receive your Zoom link.

REFLECTION

'Easter glory fills the sky. Christ now lives no more to die. Darkness has been put to flight. By the living Lord of light.' These words of an Easter hymn express the joy at Christ's victory over the last enemy of man, death! We rejoice on this day made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad. We cannot be sad this day; it's not allowed! Death is swallowed up in victory. What was just a few short years of life, only for death to claim us, is now the gateway to life, real life, pure life, eternal life. The desire to live, to seek more than what this world can offer, is a good instinct, placed there by God. It is only in him that this desire can be satisfied, and he wants us to keep longing, to keep searching. Let nothing or no one rob you of the joy of the Risen Christ. Keep close to him in good times and in bad. He is the Risen One, and if he can rise from the dead, then everything is possible, even surviving the seeming last word of death. It no longer has the last word. That belongs to Jesus and the power of his resurrection. In a world that seems bent on destruction and death (war, the killing of the unborn and the sick), we need to hear again the words of Jesus: *"I have come that you may have life and have it in all its abundance."* (Jn 10:10). The culture of death is prevalent today. This is the work of Satan. The work of the gospel and the Church, and that includes you and me, is to dispel this darkness and destroy his influence with the word of Jesus, who is life. We are an Easter people; we believe in life and the inviolable dignity of every human person from conception to natural death. Knowing that life has triumphed over the power of death, we can live our lives in this so temporary world with a buoyancy that defies the mores of a secular culture that sees no further than the immediate. We have the far-seeing eyes of people with faith, faith in the resurrection and the power of God to make all things new (Rev 21:5). Such faith sustains us through life's uncertainties because we know that death and evil no longer have the final say. Our Easter faith tells a different story, a different outcome for our destiny and purpose. It is eternal union with God. Hold on to the joy and the hope of your Easter faith. It is the answer to everything.

Wishing you the joy and blessing of the Risen Lord this Easter.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1711.05

Our Lady's £345.04

Thank you