

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

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

The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569

www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

12th April 2026



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Today is the feast of Divine Mercy, when we recall and celebrate the great mercy of God revealed in Christ Jesus. This afternoon 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 the world, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine.

HOLY HOUR

Next Sunday, there will be a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in St Joseph's to pray for the dignity and protection of human life in all its stages. This Holy Hour unites us with all the Bishops of England and Wales in their Holy Hour for the same intention.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Anthony Herbert
	9.30am	Hilary Brimble, RIP
	11.00am	Mary Lombardo
	6.30pm	Tim Peachey, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Jean Petts, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Odel Bahoum
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Anna Durrant, RIP
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Sylvia Guerin, RIP
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Melvyn Staddon, RIP
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Margaret Brannan, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Martin Hannigan, RIP
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give praise to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures forever.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, M Golomingi, P O'Reilly

FLOWERS: Mrs Crow

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

THANKS

Renewed 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 generous Easter offering.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

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

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next meeting of the Young Adults Group (18-35) will be on Sunday, 19th April at 5.00pm in the Guild Room. Come and share the joy of togetherness and friendship.

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.

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.

GARDENERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help keep the grounds of Our Lady's church in Kempston tidy. Please see Canon Seamus or Mary Frost (07708 264054) if interested.

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

On my day off last week, I spent a good part of it in my sister's pleasant garden contemplating the brevity of human existence (not really!). Rather, I was enjoying the return of the sounds of nature, with birds chirping their happy tunes, insects whizzing around and the odd butterfly fluttering on the gentle breeze. All peaceful and harmonious. This is how it should be as God planned it long ago in the Garden of Eden. But man listened to the most stupid conversation ever recorded in human history! (cf Gen 3:1-7). Our world today seems to

be on a path of self-destruction, with appalling decisions being made by staggeringly stupid world leaders! The Middle East, Russia and Ukraine are in the headlines. One could despair! But we are not, as Christians, in the business of despairing. We are a people of hope based on the victory of Christ over evil and death. This is not wishful thinking or a vain hope but a faith in the power of Christ's resurrection. Otherwise, why would he have bothered coming into our world in the first place. It must be saveable and, therefore, we must have hope that evil will not prevail. I recently watched a video of the Church in the ruins of Gaza, celebrating the Easter Vigil with the parish priest and his people, expressing real faith and hope in the midst of the devastation of war. You could see their courage shining through because they know and believe deep down that Christ is with them and that the light of Easter will not be extinguished in their hearts, no matter what man can do. God is always stronger, and we must always appeal to that higher power in our lives and not sink into the depths of despair. Of course, that's where the devil wants to keep us, but we must resist, strong in faith. You see, it does not belong to man's remit to bring about an end to the world. It is possible, but God will not allow it. It is his prerogative. And it will not be an end but a beginning, a transformation into what it was always meant to be and much more. It will be a glorification of the whole of creation to which the resurrection points and anticipates. We have our part to play, though, persevering in doing the good, fidelity to Jesus Christ, working for justice and peace, prayer, especially the Rosary for peace. In her many apparitions, Our Lady has exhorted us to pray the Rosary for peace, promising us in Fatima that in the end her Immaculate Heart will triumph and an era of peace will be given to the world. This is the promise of heaven, therefore, do not despair. We still await that promise to be fulfilled. Pray the Rosary to hasten that era of peace. And be peace-makers ourselves. No more insults, no more gossip and hateful feelings, no holding on to resentments, bitterness and dark thoughts. We are the children of the light and not of darkness. Have the courage to live as such. Don't add to the darkness that is already so evident. Let go of sin and don't listen to the deceits of the evil one. Go to the garden of your soul where the Risen One abides and be at peace.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £3269.76

Our Lady's £604.99

Thank you

Good Friday Collection

St Joseph's £654.23

Our Lady's £391.31