

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 EASTER

26th April 2026



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.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection at all Masses next Sunday 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.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The St Joseph's Friendship Circle meets this Wednesday in the Embankment Hotel at 7.00pm. Come along and meet others in friendship. Bring a friend with you.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Bill & Angela Letch & Family
	9.30am	John & Anne Szynacki, RIP
	11.00am	Patrick Summers, RIP
	6.30pm	Maureen Tame

Monday ***Feria***

10.45am Elizabeth Kehoe

Tuesday ***Feria***

10.45am Bryan Chanpda

Wednesday ***St Catherine of Siena***

10.45am Teresa Conway, RIP

Thursday ***Feria***

10.45am Roisin Walsh, RIP

Friday ***St Joseph the Worker***

10.45am Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP

Saturday ***St Athanasius***

10.45am Graeme Gardner, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Beryl Duffy

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, D Cummings, E Aoko, P O'Reilly

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

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

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.

AWAKENING

A Catholic evangelisation and healing service by Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries will be held at St Mary's Catholic Church, Dunstable, on Saturday 2nd May from 9.00am to 4.00pm. All are welcome.

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@nothamptondiocese.com.

MISSIO RED BOXES

The total amount collected in the Missio Red Boxes in 2025 from both parishes was £3098.18. Many thanks for your generous support in this way. New Missio boxes can be collected from the sacristy.

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 from Friday, 1st May to 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. 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.

REFLECTION

The word 'Why' is poignantly used whenever something of a tragic nature happens to us or a loved one, or some event in the world. It is a question quite often addressed to God by people of

faith who find it difficult to comprehend what has happened, in an attempt to reconcile it with the concept of a loving God. This is a common experience and one which can cause some to lose faith altogether. There is no easy solution to the problem of suffering, especially innocent suffering. A sudden death, a life-changing accident, an act of violence, an incurable illness, the devastation of war. The list goes on! All these different experiences provoke the question, 'why?' It is a testing time which most of us experience in one way or another. We acknowledge the pain and trauma. But as believing Christians, we have to avoid sinking into despair, losing all trust and hope. This only increases the pain! We have just celebrated Easter, the victory of Christ over his own personal cry, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* God does not stand aloof, above suffering. He is there suffering with us. His cry of "why" on the cross echoes our cry. His descent into the realm of the dead foreshadows ours. But so does his resurrection! His rising to new life foreshadows ours. Our personal suffering, therefore, is anchored in a horizon that death does not control. That is the perspective we have to keep before our eyes in the midst of sadness and pain. It does not remove it, but helps us to live through it, still believing, knowing that the Lord, in his own sufferings, walks with us and weeps with us. This calls for patient endurance and trust, digging deep into our reserves of faith. It calls for a deeper understanding of the mystery of Easter. It is not just something that happened a long time ago in a far-off land. What happened to Jesus in his death and resurrection tells the unfinished story of each one of us. We are destined to die, but also destined to rise to new life when death no longer holds sway. This is our hope, this still awaits us, and in the waiting, we allow healing to take place as Jesus, the wounded healer, touches the wounds of our humanity. The temptation, in our pain, is to push him away and so deny his desire to help and to heal. In him, there is a way back to joy and peace because he alone can restore them if we but ask. The fullness of Easter joy is being kept for us beyond the horizon of death, never to fade, never to pass away. In the meantime, we keep walking the path of faith, praying, weeping, hoping, waiting and believing even in the darkest moments until that little word 'why' will never again be uttered.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1573.01

Our Lady's £358.10

Thank you