

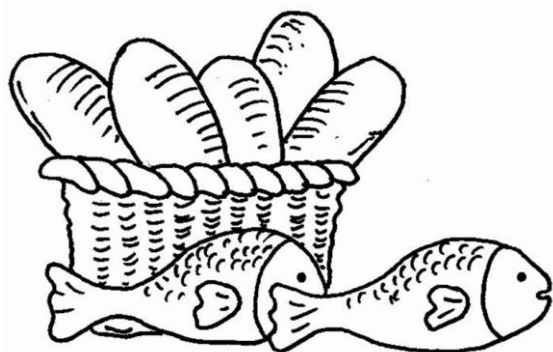
St Joseph's, Bedford & Our Lady's, Kempston

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2nd August 2026



CAFOD GROUP

We are a small group of parishioners who support CAFOD and would like a few others to join us. If you might be interested in becoming involved, then please get in touch with Mechelle on 07931 260461.

YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP

The Young Adults' Group (18-35) meets this Sunday evening at 5.00pm in the Guild Room. New members are very welcome. Access to the meeting via Church Street.

MASS FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILIES

Saturday 5th September at 12noon, Northampton Cathedral, NN2 6AG. All welcome. If at all possible for you, please register online at www.bit.ly/43Qkt0u.

HEALING SERVICE

There is a short healing service after the 6.30pm Mass today to pray for healing before the Blessed Sacrament.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Jamie Tse, RIP
9.30am Joby & Aiswaria Mathew
11.00am Clement Francis, RIP
6.30pm Tom Brady, RIP

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Anne J Matheiken

Tuesday *St John Vianney*

10.45am Tom & Jeni

Wednesday *Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major*

10.45am Mary Orr, RIP

Thursday *Transfiguration of the Lord*

10.45am Fr Galeji

Friday *Feria*

10.45am Rosemary Mitchell

Saturday *St Dominic*

10.45am Joan & Douglas Martin, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Dorothy Wagstaff, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: None until September

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is launching an earthquake appeal for the people of Venezuela. There is a second collection for this purpose today at all Masses. You can also give online by going to the CAFOD website.

ADORATION - OUR LADY'S KEMPSTON

There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday in Our Lady's, Kempston, from 11am to 12noon.

SCRIPTURES STUDIES

Fr Ditto's scripture studies resume in September.

VOCATIONS DAY

Men aged 16 and over who are considering a vocation to the priesthood are warmly invited to a Discerning Day on Saturday 8th August from 10.30am at St Augustine Catholic Church, Milton Keynes. The day will include prayer, reflection, Mass, fellowship and opportunities to speak with priests and others discerning God's call. To register or find out more, contact Fr Pius at vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org or 01753 523147. Please keep vocations in your prayers.

SUMMER PICNIC

Bedford Town Centre Churches together are holding a summer picnic on Sunday 23rd August in Bedford Park. Meet by the Bandstand at 2.00pm. Bring something to eat and drink and something to sit on. All are invited.

BEDFORD FOODBANK

The following items are needed for the Foodbank: cup-a-soup, bottles of squash 750ml, tinned vegetarian meals, jars of cooking sauces, sponge puddings, bars of chocolate, tinned vegetables, jars of jam, cereal bars, washing up liquid. Thank you for your ongoing support.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Charismatic Prayer Group meets this Thursday at 7.00pm in the Guild room. All are warmly welcome. Contact Ted Fawcett on 07561 424486.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Assisted suicide campaigners are trying to bring back the Leadbeater Bill. *Not Dead Yet UK* has launched a simple tool to help you email your MP about the risks this Bill poses to people with disabilities. Email your MP using the tool: www.notdeadyetuk.org.

THE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

This year is the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's death. To mark the occasion, it is proposed that we have a visit to St Francis church in Shefford on Saturday 26th September. The day would begin at 10.00am with a schedule of activities including talks, novena prayer, tour of the church and Mass. The day would end at 2.00pm after a packed lunch. We would make our way there by our own transport. Keep the date in your diary.

REFLECTION

When we hear phrases like '*the heart of the matter*' or '*heart to heart*' or '*deep in my heart*', we are not talking about that muscle that keeps me alive, pumping my blood supply. The word 'heart' when used symbolically speaks about our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of ourselves or the inner core and sanctuary of our being. And it is there that God finds his home; it is there that he seeks entrance so as to mould us, shape us into his likeness. In that sense we are all in need of heart-surgery because there is a heart defect or murmur which requires correcting; otherwise it could lead to spiritual death. This is the work of grace which began with our baptism when we were inaugurated into the life of Christ and set us on the road to salvation. Our baptism took away the original sin which we are all born with, but the effects of that sin remain, hence the need of further remedial work in the life of grace. That inner core of our being is the seed-bed of all our moral actions and decisions. It is there, within the heart of a person, that good and bad intentions emerge (Mk 7:21). Jesus is the divine physician who can heal the heart and return it to its original innocence, reorienting it to the good, to God. This was the whole purpose of Jesus coming into the world: to bring about a revolution. Not a political revolution but a revolution of the heart. This process is called holiness of life, which is the heart of the gospel message. Jesus has shown us how it can be done, but it is not easy; human weakness rebels and does not easily conform to the Lord's plan for us. Therefore, we sin and make excuses like I can't help it. But we are not programmed to sin! We have free will, and we can change if there is the desire to do so and allow the grace of God to act in us. All we have to do is ask him, and he will not refuse the grace. He sees our struggles; he understands our weakness and will readily help us if we let him. He gave us the sacraments, he gave us clear teachings, he gave us the Church, and most of all he gave us himself. We are not alone in our struggle with the self. The Lord walks with us, and he wants us to lean on him and to speak to him, heart to heart, to receive his mercy, his forgiveness. Then we shall experience the freedom of the children of God as we detach ourselves from the power of sin: "*A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.*" (Psalm 50:10)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1680.77

Our Lady's £301.37

Thank you

CAFOD (Venezuela Earthquake) St Joseph's £588.13 Our Lady's £90.60