

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

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

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ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

16th August, 2026



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Derek Ruff
	11.00am	Teresa Castro & Gerardo Baebosa
	6.30pm	Bob & Joe Zak; Katy Szczurko, RIP
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Gerald & Esther Aoko, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Irene & Family
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Neo Joby Mathew
Thursday	<i>St Bernard</i>	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Friday	<i>Pope St Pius X</i>	
	10.45am	Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo, RIP
Saturday	<i>The Queenship of Mary</i>	
	10.45am	Angela Wilson

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Chaston & Bolongaita Families, RIP
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FIRST COMMUNION 2027

Enrolment forms for First Communion classes can be collected from the sacristy. Completed forms must be returned by 27th September.

CAFOD GROUP

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

MARRIAGE & FAMILIES

Mass to celebrate Marriage and Families on Saturday 5th September at 12noon, at Northampton Cathedral, NN2 6AG. All welcome. Please register online at www.bit.ly/43Qkt0u

24 HOUR ADORATION

24 Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St Joseph's Reconciliation Chapel, starting on Friday 28th August after the Mass until 12.30pm the following day.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, E Aoko, M Abrantes, N Osakwe

FLOWERS: Mrs Abrantes

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-First Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4

Children's Liturgy: None until September

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Scripture studies will resume in September.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP MEETING

The Young Adults Group (18-35) meets this Sunday, 16th August at 5.00pm in the Guild Room. WhatsApp group: 07741 910990. Come and participate and share the joy of faith, friendship and togetherness.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets this Thursday at 7pm in the Guild Room. All most welcome.

SUMMER PICNIC

Bedford town Centre Churches Together is 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.

THE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS

This year is the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis. To mark the occasion, it is proposed that we have a visit St Francis of Assisi church in Shefford on Saturday 26th September. The day would begin at 10.00am with a schedule of liturgical 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.

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

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Maria Kahari and Michael Boella. May they rest in the peace of the Lord. Michael's memorial Mass will be this Wednesday at 2.00pm in St Joseph's church.

REFLECTION

I once saw an inscription on a scatter cushion as if been typed on an old typewriter which read, 'A true love story never ends.' In essence, the Bible is a love story that will never end: God's love for his people. It begins with an account of the creation. It paints a perfect picture of harmony between man and God, between men and women and with nature itself. A garden of delight where God walked among his creation (Gen 3:8). It's Biblical imagery to convey the truth of God's intimate presence and fellowship with humanity. However, this harmony and unity was broken; a rupture we call The Fall (cf Gen 3). But despite man's disobedience and subsequent loss of the paradise of Eden, God, in his love and mercy, promised a saviour and redeemer and thus re-opened the doors to paradise and eternal life (Gen 3:15). In Jesus we see God literally

walking among men again: 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' (Jn 1:14). God never gave up on us, and so the love story continues to this day. And he goes to extreme lengths to show that love even to death, death on a cross: "Greater love has no man than this that a man lays down his life for his friends." (Jn 15:13). This is true love. It's not a feeling nor a passing emotion. It is sacrificial love which is always concerned about the other. We see that, for example, in the spousal love of husband and wife. Indeed, sometimes the love that God has for us is described as spousal in the Bible: (Is 54:5, Hosea 2:16-20, Jer 3:14, Eph 11:2, 2 Cor 11:2, Rev 19:7-9). God is an eternal exchange of love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we are invited to enter into the Trinitarian life of God and so share in this exchange of love. It does not preclude human love but rather perfects it. We will love in a different way, more profound, pure, selfless and fulfilling. We are made by love in order to love, now and forever. Let St Paul's definition of love be our guiding principle as we make our journey to heaven's shore: "Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end." (1 Cor 13:4-8). The poet George Herbert puts it beautifully in speaking of God's tender love for us:

*Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
guilty of dust and sin. But quick-eyed Love,
observing me grow slack from my first entrance in,
drew near to me, sweetly questioning, if I lacked
anything? A guest, I answered, worthy to be here.
Love said, 'You shall be he.' I, the unkind,
ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee.'
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, 'Who
made the eyes but I?' Truth, Lord, but I have
marred them; let my shame go where it doth
deserve.' 'And know you not', says Love, 'who
bore the blame?' 'My dear, then, I will serve.'
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my
meat.' So I did sit and eat.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1430.13

Our Lady's £280.91

Thank you