

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

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

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**TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
23rd August, 2026



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Ryan, Lisa & Ezra
	9.30am	Mr & Mrs DiGennaro, RIP
	11.00am	Harry Watling, RIP
	6.30pm	The English Family
Monday	<i>St Bartholomew</i>	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Mechelle Anstead
Wednesday	<i>Blessed Dominic Barbarie</i>	
	10.45am	Jamie Tse, RIP
Thursday	<i>St Monica</i>	
	10.45am	Tony Moran, RIP
Friday	<i>St Augustine</i>	
	10.45am	Bob & Joe Zak, Katy Szczurko, RIP
Saturday	<i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	
	10.45am	Maria Kahari, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Steph Simons, 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.

24 HOUR ADORATION

24 Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St Joseph's Reconciliation Chapel starting this Friday 28th August after the 10.45am Mass until 12.30pm the following day.

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 07931260461. There will be a short talk after the Masses today.

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.

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1

Children's Liturgy: None until September

ROSARY FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Join in praying for the sanctity of human life with the Rosary after the 10.45am Mass this Saturday.

CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

Members of the four Circles of Harpenden, Luton & District, Bedford, Milton Keynes and Northampton are meeting together at a venue in Newport Pagnell on Wednesday 26th August to re-establish long-standing links between the four Circles in a spirit of faith, family and friendship. They will be joined by brothers (as we are known) from Chiltern, Banbury, Bicester and South Bucks Circles. Want to know more about how to become a Catenian, then email: bedford177@btinternet.com

SUMMER PICNIC

Bedford Town Centre Churches Together is holding a summer picnic today, 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.

SIP & PAINT EVENING

Would you like a gentle evening of sipping tea or coffee and painting your own masterpiece? We are holding a Sip & Paint Evening in aid of CAFOD on Saturday 25th September from 7.00pm to 9.00pm in the Guild Room. Tickets are £10, which covers a drink, some cake and all you need to paint your picture. Tickets are limited and can be bought after Mass from this weekend onwards or by calling 07931 260461.

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 to 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, a 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

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

The scripture studies led by Fr Ditto will resume in September.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection on Sunday 6th September for Aid to the Church in Need.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Derek Ruff, Martha Chand, Maria Kahari, Tony Moran and Bridget Bardon. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

One cannot help but notice the brown, dried-up landscape at present, with this long hot summer lacking any rain. Water is vital for life, which is stating the obvious! It may not be so obvious when it comes to the life of grace, which is vital to our spiritual lives. Without grace we would soon dry up spiritually and even die! So what is this thing we call grace? Well, it simply means the life of God in you and me. If we don't have God in our lives, then we become an empty husk, devoid of life and meaning. Yes, we have this physical life, but life is more than the body and its needs. We live out our lives in the world but with little meaning and purpose. We are left messing around in the shallows when we should be plunging ourselves into the deep, the deep of God's love and life. This is what we are called to when we were baptised. The word baptism means immersion. We are immersed into the life of Christ, and we begin a journey that will lead to the eternal fountain of life, union with God. In him all our desires for love and life will be satisfied. There is within the human heart an undefined thirst which cannot be satisfied by anything or anyone. Only God can slake that thirst. Recognising and experiencing that thirst is a good thing because then we can set about satisfying it, but being careful to avoid the poisoned wells that the world would entice us to partake of. We need to look for the wells of spiritual, life-quenching water to be found in our Catholic tradition. I'm speaking here of the sacraments of the Church. They are a tremendous source of life to the soul, like an oasis in a parched land. Frequent these wells of salvation and also the deep well of personal prayer in which we encounter the Lord who said, "*If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink.*" (Jn 7:37). Jesus alone can satisfy the deepest needs of the human heart. Physical water sustains all life. Jesus offers living water which leads to eternal life. We have the deep well-spring of our faith to sustain us even in the most trying and testing times of our lives. If we remain close to this source of living water, Jesus Christ, then the words of the prophet Jeremiah will ring true: "*Blessed shall he be that puts his trust in the Lord, makes the Lord his refuge. Not more favoured is a tree planted by the water's edge, that pushes out its roots to catch the moisture and defies the summer heat; its green leaves careless of the drought, its fruit unfailing.*" Jer 17:7

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1706.93

Our Lady's £500.20

Thank you