

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

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

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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

30th August, 2026



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

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

We are encouraged to write to our MP to vote against the Bill at Second Reading on 11th September. There are postcards at the back of the church to aid us in this. Please take one, fill it in and post it to your MP. Thank you.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Aaron D'Souza
	9.30am	Valentine da Costa
	11.00am	Michael & Sheela Masih
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	<i>St Aidan & Saints of Lindisfarne</i>	
	10.45am	Maria & Teodor Bazylewicz, RIP
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Special Intention (Coles Family)
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Thursday	<i>Pope St Gregory the Great</i>	
	10.45am	Oliver Graham
Friday	<i>St Cuthbert</i>	
	10.45am	Paddy Joe Nestor
Saturday	<i>St Teresa of Calcutta</i>	
	10.45am	Teresita 'Naty' Chandler, RIP
Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston		
Saturday	6.00pm	Alan Wright, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, D Cummings, E Aoko, N Osakwe

FLOWERS: Mrs Price

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for peace.

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 Friday 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. Please call 07931 260461.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Michael and Sheela Masih as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary this Sunday.

WEDDING

Okoli Patrick and Enekwiechi Jennifer Chinaza will be promising themselves to each other in marriage in St Joseph's church on Saturday 5th September. We hold them in prayer on this their special day.

PARISH BBQ

We are having a Parish BBQ on Sunday 13th September at 2.00pm in the grounds of Our Lady's church, Kempston, in aid of our parish project. £5 adults and £3 children. Make a note of the date in your diary.

YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP 18-35 YEARS

Meet next Sunday at 5pm in the Guild Room. To join, contact via WhatsApp: 07741 910990. Come and join as we grow in faith and friendship.

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection next Sunday for Aid to the Church in Need.

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.

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. Derek's funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 8th Sept at 10.45am in St Joseph's. Martha's funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 9th Sept at 10.00am in St Joseph's.

REFLECTION

Over the past couple of weeks or so we have had a number of deaths of some well-known and well-loved parishioners. Their faces will never be seen

again as we knew them in this world but, as people of faith, we know that we will see them again, transfigured with the glory of Christ's resurrection. As stated in the funeral liturgy, *'the sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality.'* The sadness we experience at the death of a loved one, especially if it is unexpected or sudden, is deep. It seems so final! In one sense it is. It's the final end to a life lived in this world, so familiar to us, so much part of who we are. We know of no other existence. With death, we enter into the cloud of unknowing, but our Christian faith assures us of an existence that, even though now hidden from us, is real. Christ himself has said so: *"If anyone believes in me, even though he dies yet shall he live."* (Jn 11:25). And he vindicated that promise by his own experience of death and in his resurrection. Yes, we are saddened by the finality of death, but it does not have the final say. We believe this deep down, but it remains a testing time for us who mourn the loss. However, we can lessen the pain by drawing close to the source of all life, Jesus Christ, the risen one. We die once, but we shall live forever. Making the risen one our constant companion along the way will see us through the dark and testing times and ready us for our own farewell to this temporary existence. In Christ we are not left to wallow in despair and the pain of loss. In him is the answer to our grief: *"I go to prepare a place for you so that where I am you may be too."* (Jn 14:3). Prayerfully pondering the reality of life and death is a good practice, helping to put things into perspective and preparing us for that final letting go. We are made for life without end. Hold on to that truth; it will not disappoint and will lighten our way and lessen our sorrow.

*My soul, there is a country far beyond the stars,
where stands a winged sentry all skilful in the
wars: There above noise and danger sweet Peace
sits crowned with smiles, and One born in a
manger commands the beauteous files. He is thy
gracious friend and – O my soul, awake! – did in
pure love descend to die here for thy sake. If thou
canst get but thither, there grows the flower of
Peace, the rose that cannot wither, thy fortress,
and thy ease. Leave then thy foolish ranges, for
none can thee secure, but one who never changes,
thy God, thy life, thy cure.'*

Henry Vaughan

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1737.76

Our Lady's £273.27

Thank you