

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

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

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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

27th September 2026



OPEN MORNING

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary and Preschool, Biddenham Turn, Bedford, invites parents of young children to an Open Morning on Saturday 3rd October from 10am – 12pm. Call 01234 352062 or email: office@bfa.olicat.uk. You can also scan the QR code on the poster on the church noticeboard.

FIRST COMMUNION 2027

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

CAFOD TALK

There will be a short talk about the work of CAFOD at all Masses today, prior to a second collection to be taken next weekend.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday 8.15am Gloria Guerin, RIP
9.30am Derek Ruff, RIP
11.00am Sarah & Edward Abraham, RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday *Feria*

10.45am Frank Rozman, RIP

Tuesday *SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael*

10.45am Mary Wright, RIP

Wednesday *St Jerome*

10.45am Joy Matheiken, RIP

Thursday *St Therese of Lisieux*

10.45am Anne Joy

Friday *The Holy Guardian Angels*

10.45am Dragaa Simicic

Saturday *Votive Mass of Our Lady*

10.45am Mariella Angela Pompa

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday 6.00pm Jose Scaria, RIP

Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Remember your compassion, O Lord.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm

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

FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 2

Children's Liturgy: Edward & Geraldine Byrne

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.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Fatima Devotions this Saturday after the 10.45am Mass to pray for the gift of peace in our peaceless world.

YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP

The next gathering of the Young Adults' Group for those aged 18-35, will be held on Sunday 4th October at 5.00pm in the Guild Room. Further details will be shared in the Young Adults' WhatsApp group. To join, please contact: WhatsApp: 07741 910990. Come and join us as we grow in faith, build friendships and share the joy of being together.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Charismatic Prayer Group next meets this Thursday at 7.00pm in the Guild Room. All warmly welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS DAY

All parish Eucharistic Ministers are invited to an afternoon of renewal and prayer on Saturday 10th October from 2pm to 4.30pm in St Joseph's church led by Fr Ditto. Please come along to be renewed in your ministry and gain a greater understanding of this important ministry of service in the Lord.

PARISH PROJECT

As you know, over the past 12 months we have been holding fundraising events in the parish for St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger. I am pleased to tell you that we have raised £5,364.17 through your generous support and giving in aid of this project. A cheque for this amount will be sent to the Hospice next week. Thank you so much for your generous response to this appeal. We will be starting a new project this autumn in aid of CAFOD. Details of which will be available shortly.

THANK YOU

The final amount raised for Aid to the Church in Need was £2,458.37. This figure includes donations made by card on the day of the appeal from both parishes. ACN is so very grateful for your generous giving.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia Caherty and Gloria Guerin. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Having just returned from another parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje, I feel rejuvenated and hope that it doesn't wear off too soon! It is good to have these moments of quiet time for prayer and reflection to re-establish a sense of balance in one's life and resist the temptation of activism, which can quickly drain the soul of its spiritual sensitivity. Admittedly, it's easy to be Catholic in such a place where the focus is on God and the things of God. The atmosphere lends itself to a more contemplative approach to life, a more peaceful experience because the place is saturated with the divine, with the holy. The challenge is to retain that peace once you have returned home. The secret is to carry God and his mother Mary in your heart through prayer and the sacraments because Jesus and Mary are not confined to a particular place and time. They accompany us if we invite them into our day-to-day lives. They are to be found in the ordinary, even the mundane. Invite them to be a part of your daily life, and you will be transformed by their indwelling presence. Of course, going to such special places of pilgrimage helps in this; it reminds us that the veil between heaven and earth is very thin. The demands of life can and do obscure this truth, which is why time given to our spiritual need in prayer is essential, for it nourishes the soul just as food nourishes the body. '*Blessed are the pure of heart*' is one of the beatitudes we should observe. It means a continual desire for and remembrance of God. Nothing else will satisfy that deep-down hunger. Those special places of pilgrimage remind us of this hunger and how we can assuage it. People sometimes remark that 'it's back to reality' once they return home, but that presumes that what was experienced was not real! It was very real, more real than what we call reality because for those few days we got things the right way round. We gave priority to the spiritual, which gives proper balance to our lives and, therefore, our inner peace, even in the midst of our everyday activities and responsibilities. God is with us in our present situation and not just in those special, holy places where heaven has touched earth. Make a pilgrimage into your hearts each day in prayer, and you will find God and his peace waiting for you. There, create a sacred space just for you and God alone, and rest in him.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1,626.64

Our Lady's £219.44

Thank you

Home Mission Sunday

St Joseph's £416.13

Our Lady's £66.08