

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

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

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TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 4th October 2026



WELCOME

We welcome to our 9.30am parish Mass today the pupils and staff of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, Bedford, on this Education Sunday, when we are invited to pray for our Catholic schools and support them by sending our children to them. If any parents would like to visit the school, please make contact on 01234 352062 or email: office@bfa.olicat.uk. You can also scan the QR code on the poster on the church noticeboard. Also, we are invited to a Mass at the school this Monday to celebrate the feast of St Francis of Assisi at 9.30am.

CAFOD SECOND COLLECTION

There is a second collection at all Masses today for the work of CAFOD. Please use the envelopes provided at the back of the church and fill in the Gift Aid slip if you are a taxpayer. Thank you.

Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Patricia Herbert-Gilber
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Sarah & Edward Abraham, RIP
	6.30pm	Angelica Zurich: Thanksgiving
Monday	St Faustina Kowalska	
	10.45am	Requiem: Gloria Guerin
Tuesday	St Bruno	
	10.45am	Sylvia Guerin, RIP
Wednesday	Our Lady of the Rosary	
	10.45am	Lisa Joanne Newell, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	10.45am	Placid D'Souza
	12.00pm	Requiem: Patricia Caherty
Friday	St John Henry Newman	
	10.45am	Vladimir & Sophie Gmajner, RIP
Saturday	Votive Mass of Our Lady	
	10.45am	Johnson Family

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Elaine McLennon, RIP
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Confessions – St Joseph's:

Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am - 7.00pm

CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo, E Aoko

FLOWERS: Mrs Bino

NEXT SUNDAY: Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year

Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 3

Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

PARENTS' PRAYER GROUP

The Parents' Prayer Group meets this Monday after the 10.45am Mass in the Reconciliation Chapel. All parents are invited to join in prayer for their children.

YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP

The next gathering of the Young Adults' Group for those aged 18-35 is today, 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.

NEW PARISH PROJECT

For the next 12 months we will be raising funds in support of three projects adopted by CAFOD. They are: Community Water Supply, School Meals and Medical Out-Reach. Remote communities in northern Zimbabwe will be helped to establish their own supply of clean, safe water, meaning fewer diseases and fuller crops. The school meals project will help children stay in school with the energy to focus on their studies and build the futures they want. No one can do their best work when hungry! The Medical Outreach brings life-saving care to remote communities, providing emergency treatment, free medicines and health training for families who have no access to healthcare. Our first fundraising event will be a Parish Quiz on Friday 23rd October at 7.30pm in the Guild Room. Entrance £5 per person. Light refreshments provided. Bring your own drinks. Any queries, call Nigel on 07780 617057.

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.

SIP AND PAINT EVENING

Thanks to all who joined in the Sip and Paint evening last Friday. It was a most enjoyable way to raise money for CAFOD, which amounted to £250. Our artistic efforts will be on display in Tate Modern!!

FOODBANK

The Foodbank will not take any food items that are not pre-packed. So please, no loose food items (e.g. cereals in loose packaging) or opened boxes of food or out-of-date food, and definitely no clothing. Thank you.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia Caherty, whose funeral Mass is on Thursday 8th October at 12noon in St Joseph's, and Gloria Guerin, whose funeral Mass is on Monday 5th October at 10.45am in St Joseph's.

REFLECTION

A familiar scene caught my eye the other day whilst celebrating Mass; a little boy reaching out with both arms to be lifted up by his father. It immediately reminded me of St Therese of Lisieux, whose feast we celebrated a few days ago, and who, in the life of faith, regarded herself as just a poor little helpless girl who could never reach the dizzy heights of holiness like St John of the Cross or Teresa of Avila. So she simply reached out in her spirit to God her Father and asked him to lift her up! In trust she knew that he would lift her to great heights of holiness by relying, not on her own efforts, but his grace and power. This insight was to form the basis of her famous little way of spiritual childhood. Realising her weakness and inability to achieve great acts of sanctity, she developed her own little way to sainthood, accessible to all and not just the spiritual elite. Doing little things with love was her secret and insight to the spiritual life. Her autobiography, *'The Story of a Soul'*, lets us into this new way to sainthood; attractive, uncomplicated and open to all. If we do all things in love of God and in the service of others; little acts of kindness compassion, patience, attentiveness to others, even a smile. All these little ways done in love can lead to great holiness of life as it did for Therese. There are many opportunities each day to exercise these simple acts of charity. It becomes prayer for us, prayer in action. Such selfless acts move the heart of God who will open his grace upon us. So the call to holiness is very accessible through her little way. We just have to reach out to God and, in the words of the psalm, *"On that rock too high for me to reach, set me on high."* (Psalm 61:2). He will set us on high if we ask him and have the humility to admit our weakness and our need. *"God refuses the proud and gives grace to the humble"* (1 Peter 5:5). We learn from the saints and Jesus himself how to live lives pleasing to God, and it's not complicated nor reserved to the few to rise to great heights of holiness; St Therese being a prime example. Yes, the call to holiness is challenging but not impossible and, learning from St Therese and her little way is, as she herself describes it, a shortcut to heaven! So, reach out to God every day and, like a good parent, he will not be able to resist such a trusting act of love and so raise us to the heights.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory

St Joseph's £1695.72

Our Lady's £803.21

Thank you