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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Ditto Devassy
The Presbytery, 2 Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU Tel: 352569
www.stjosephsbedford.org Email: parish.stjosephbedford@northamptondiocese.org

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
8th November 2026



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Charlie Ayres, RIP
	9.30am	Melanie Coral Williams
	11.00am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Holy Souls
Monday	***Dedication of the Lateran Basilica***	
	10.45am	Kenneth Kavanagh, RIP
Tuesday	***Pope St Leo the Great***	
	10.45am	Chris & Eric McNoughton, RIP
Wednesday	***St Martin of Tours***	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Thursday	***St Josaphat***	
	10.45am	Mary Frost
Friday	***Feria***	
	10.45am	Nick & Bridie Keisters, RIP
Saturday	***Votive Mass of Our Lady***	
	10.45am	Tommy Joseph, RIP

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Holy Souls

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
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm
CLEANING: S Masih, E Aoko, N Osakwe
FLOWERS: Mrs Abrantes
NEXT SUNDAY: Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year
Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 4
Children's Liturgy: Bimla & Natalie Mathew

INDIAN MEAL

Our next fundraising event for our new parish project is an Indian Meal at the Indiya Restaurant, The Broadway, Bedford, on Wednesday 11th November at 7.00pm. The cost is £22 per person for a two-course meal, of which the restaurant will donate £2 for every diner who attends. An English meal of fried chicken is available. Please place your name and phone number, plus the number in your party, if you wish to attend, on the sheet at the back of the church.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The blessing of the graves will take place as follows: Foster Hill Road, today, Sunday 8th Nov. Norse Road and Kempston, Sunday 15th Nov. Each service begins at 2.30pm at the cemetery entrance, followed by the blessing.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL DAY

Another Spiritual Renewal Day is scheduled for Saturday 21st November from 3pm to 5pm in Our Lady's church, Kempston. All are welcome. Invite others to come along.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

A parish pilgrimage to Lourdes is being organised for next year 10th – 14th May 2027. Flying from Stansted to Lourdes Airport and staying at a four-star hotel, full board. Cost: £700 sharing and £850 single room. Booking forms can be collected from the presbytery and returned by 31st December with a £200 deposit.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards and other religious items on sale today in both churches. Cash-only sales, please. Profit from the sale in aid of our parish project.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next Young Adults group gathering for those aged 18-35 will be held on Sunday 15th November at 5.00pm in the Guild room, with access from Church Street. Further details will be shared in the WhatsApp group. To join the group, please contact: 07741 910990. Come and join us as we grow in faith, build friendships and share the joy of being together.

CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS

Tickets for our parish Christmas Draw are on sale at £2.50 a book from today in aid of our parish project. Prizes for the draw are gratefully received.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month of the Holy Souls. If you wish to include the names of your deceased loved ones in the daily Masses during November, then please list their names and place the list in the envelopes provided at the back of the church. Return to the presbytery or the church.

LUX WEEKEND FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS

LUX, our annual diocesan residential weekend for young people aged 11-18 (school years 7-13), returns from 29th to 31st January 2027 at Kings Park Centre, Northampton. It promises an exciting weekend of workshops, drama, music, worship, Mass, prayer, games and friendship, exploring faith through a different theme each year. Two age-specific streams ensure activities and discussions are tailored to participants. The cost is £120, including accommodation, meals and activities. Places must be booked in advance with a completed form and deposit, with the remaining balance due by 8th January 2027. Please email vicky.bunting@northamptondiocese.org or phone 01582 720627.

1000 ROSARIES DEVOTION

This devotion will resume on Saturday 14th November from 12.45pm until 5pm in the Reconciliation chapel. All welcome.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Veronica McEvoy, Hilda Washbrooke, Christina Summers and Emuesiris Harrison Ekewena.

REFLECTION

A fundamental teaching of the Church is what is called the four last things, namely death, judgement, heaven and hell. As we approach the end of the liturgical year and the beginning of the season of Advent, the liturgy and scripture readings at Mass will become more pronounced in their focus on the four last things. Death comes to us all, after which the judgement, referred to as the particular judgement (cf Hebrews 9:27), when we shall be judged by God as deserving of eternal life and union with him or eternal separation. In the light of that judgement, we shall see ourselves as we really are, good and bad. If we have persevered in goodness, despite our failings at times, then eternal salvation is assured. We might have to undergo further preparation for heaven in Purgatory, which I wrote about last week. This is the extension of God's mercy after death. All souls found in that state are bound for heaven. Hell, on the other hand, is the eternal separation from God by a definitive act of the will, rejecting the call to love and the mercy God offers. Jesus came into the world to save us from such a fate. *"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life."* (Jn 3:16). God wants no one to be lost, but he respects our freedom to act as we want towards the good or towards evil. Heaven is the final consequence of the decision to will the good and avoid evil. Heaven is union with God, and the fulfilment of all happiness where suffering and death are no more and all tears are wiped away. We will inhabit a glorified body freed from all the limitations of this world. Seeing God face to face is the glory of heaven, and a secondary source of blessedness is that we shall be united with those especially close and dear to us in this life, along with the eternal fellowship of Our Lady and all the angels and saints. The Lord is with us in our journey back to the Father's house, supporting us and leading us by the reins of love. So, as we enter into this season of sombre reflection, let us be buoyed by the knowledge that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, who has preceded us to prepare a place for us (cf Jn 14:1-6). Follow him.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory	**St Joseph's £2060.15**	**Our Lady's £349.06**	**Thank you**
Sick & Retired Priests' Fund	**St Joseph's £741.73**	**Our Lady's £80.65**	