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

Parish Priest: Canon Seamus Keenan. Assistant Priest: Fr Ditto Devassy
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THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
15th November 2026



Mass Times – St Joseph's, Bedford

Sunday	8.15am	Varghese Parakkadan & Thressiama
	9.30am	Holy Souls
	11.00am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Deceased Members of the KSC
Monday	***St Margaret of Scotland***	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	***Feria***	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	***Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul***	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Thursday	***Feria***	
	10.45am	Holy Souls
Friday	***Feria***	
	10.45am	Daniel Reddy, RIP
Saturday	***Presentation of Our Lady***	
	10.45am	Holy Souls

Mass Times – Our Lady's, Kempston

Saturday	6.00pm	Holy Souls

Confessions – St Joseph's:
Saturday 11.30am – 12.30pm (Exposition)

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

The next preparation class for the children is this Saturday at 9.15am in the Guild Room. All must attend, please.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The blessing of the graves today, 15th November, at Norse Road and Kempston, at 2.30pm. We meet at the entrance to the cemetery.

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.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

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

CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Blessed are all who fear the Lord.
ROSARY: Daily at 10.20am
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday 11.30am – 7.00pm
CLEANING: S Masih, A Daniels, R Okonkwo
FLOWERS: Mrs Redmond
NEXT SUNDAY: Christ the King
Readers & Ministers: Rota Week 1
Children's Liturgy: Jo & Raoul Bull

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.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

Today is designated as Safeguarding Sunday when we are reminded of the important part we all play in creating safe and welcoming communities. Please pick up a message from the diocese on this matter along with the parish newsletter.

SECOND COLLECTION - FLOWERS

There will be a second collection in St Joseph's next Sunday for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas.

YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP

The next Young Adults' group gathering for those aged 18-35 will be held this Sunday, 15th November, at 5.00pm in the Guild Room, 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.

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 and 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.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Veronica McEvoy, Hilda Washbrook, Christina Summers and Emuesiris Harrison Ekewena. Hilda's funeral service will be on Monday 30th November at 10am at Norse Road Crematorium. Emuesiris's funeral Mass will be on Friday 27th November at 10.45am in St Joseph's church.

REFLECTION

When we hear or come across the word 'Nonconformist', we usually associate the term with religion, specifically Protestant Christian denominations that do not conform to the doctrine and governance of the Church of England. In another sense, I think all Christians, including us Catholics, should be nonconformist in terms of our relationship with a secular world which constantly pressures us to conform to changing fashions, popular opinions and worldly standards of success. We need to ask ourselves what kind of life are we shaping and what are we allowing ourselves to be conformed to? The ways of the world are constantly shifting. What is fashionable now is no longer tomorrow. What was sacred and true is no longer held to be. In such a world we have to ask where our centre is, where is our bedrock? Surely, for us as Christians, it must be Christ and his perennial teachings. To be conformed to him is our calling. He is the only guarantee of what is true, what is real, what gives meaning to life and the purpose of our existence. If we don't give credence to him and instead adopt a secular mind-set then we are lost! Conformity to worldly values is completely contrary to gospel values. Worldly standards do not require much from us, just nodding assent because they appeal to self-indulgence and lazy attitudes. *"Woe to you when the world speaks well of you."* (Lk 6:26). Compromising our principles in order to win favour is the death of the soul and the spiritual life. Conformity to Christ is the sole purpose of our existence because it gives ultimate meaning to it. Secular conformity leads to a dead-end. Secularism is unable to answer the deeper questions of the human condition. *'Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die'* is about the height of it! A rather fatalistic or hedonistic world-view! We know there is more to life and its meaning. Union with God is the way to freedom and fulfilment. Conforming oneself to Christ is the way; not an easy way because it involves sacrifice and self-surrender: *"The gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life."* (Mt 7:14). But even now, as we make the effort to walk that way we can experience a foretaste of that future life, in that our journey becomes scented with joy and meaning. Conformity to Christ guarantees our happiness now and forever.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Offertory **St Joseph's £1953.44** **Our Lady's £417.77** **Thank you**