

Holy Cross Parish Newsletter**355 Goldington Road****Bedford****MK41 ODP****Tel. 01234 353116**

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(Mass Intentions)

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- Sat. 1st 9.30 (P&J) Giving Tree contributors
6.00 (HC) Cait u Murchy RIP
- Sun. 2nd 8.00 (P&J) People of the Parish
(Missa pro Populo)
9.15 (HC) Greaves & Loveday families
11.00 (P&J) Benjamin Stephen Ostley
Birthday
- Mon. 3rd 9.30 (P&J) Word and Communion
- Tue. 4th 9.30 (HC) Word and Communion
- Wed. 5th 9.30 (P&J) Word and Communion
- Thu. 6th 9.30 (HC) Word and Communion
- Fri 7th 9.30 (HC) Word and Communion
7.00pm Mass Liam & Daniel seminarians
- Sat. 8th 9.30 (P&J) Word and Communion
6.00 (HC) Margaret McAuley RIP
- Sun. 9th 8.00 (P&J) People of the Parish
(Missa pro Populo)
9.15 (HC) Holy souls
11.00 (P&J) Ian Mitchell RIP

Missa pro populo refers to the requirement of all Parish Priests to offer Mass for the people of the parish every Sunday and each Holyday of Obligation.

Parish Priests must offer one Mass per weekend for their parish.

Readings This Week**First Reading:** Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16**Psalm:** Psalm 24**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 3: 12 - 4: 2**Gospel:** Luke 21: 25 - 28. 34 - 36**Psalm Response***To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.***Gospel Acclamation***Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.***Confessions**

Saturday 10.00 - 10.30 a.m. (PJ) and
5.15 p.m. (HC) or by arrangement or in case
of need at any reasonable time.

There will be no Mass or Confession slot at P&J on Sat. 8th Dec. (due to the Patronal Mass at the Cathedral). There will be the usual 5.15 p.m. Confession slot at HC on that day.

Baptisms

None at present.

Morning Prayer of the Church

The Morning Prayer of the Church is recited before the 9.30 Mass each weekday. **Exposition and Benediction** Usually on Monday & Friday after 9.30 Mass, ending with Benediction at 10.30 a.m.

Booking Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions for either Church should be booked through Maria (P&J Parish Secretary) and the voluntary stipend (that is, your financial offering) given either to Maria or Sheila, which is used for the parish.

Rosary

Rosary every Friday at 6.30 p.m. All welcome

Children's Liturgy

This Sunday we shall start our Advent programme. The display at the front of the church will "grow" each week with the children's work and they will also have a special card following this year's theme to take home every Sunday. All children aged 3+ very welcome. Please meet in front of the altar before the start of Mass. Our Advent Service will be on Sun. 9th Dec. at 4.00 p.m. Activities and the opportunity to dress up and take part in telling the Christmas story. Refreshments afterwards.

Diocesan Year of Prayer & Vocation

In December the Pope asks us to pray in the Service of the Transmission of Faith; that people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

Baptism Preparation Meeting - 18th Dec.

Holy Cross 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. led by Dcn Tony.

Please Pray

On Fri. 7th Dec. the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Advent Reflection Evening for Families and Young People

6th Dec. 6.00 p.m. St Thomas More Catholic School. Good News Bookshop from Luton also present. Refreshments available. All welcome!

Christmas Mass Time Cards

In the narthex there are Jesse Tree cards showing the times of Mass for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Rosary Link

To pray for and sustain vocations to the Sacred Priesthood. Fri. 7th Dec. P&J Church 7.00 p.m. - Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception. 7.45 p.m. - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament with the Holy Rosary followed by refreshments (volunteers needed). Please seek to attend these liturgies particularly as we support seminarians Liam and Daniel in their continued formation for the Sacred Priesthood.

Divine Mercy Retreat

Sun. 9th Dec. 2.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Child and St Joseph, Bedford.

Feast Day Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wed. 12th Dec. 7.30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Child and St Joseph. Principal Celebrant His Excellency, Archbishop Edward Adams, Papal Nuncio, assisted by Bishop Peter Doyle. See poster in narthex.

Funeral Mass - Doreen McCarthy

Thu. 13th Dec. at 12.00, Holy Cross, followed by burial at Norse Road Cemetery. Doreen died peacefully on 20th Nov. She was a joyous lady who loved her music and dance and will be greatly missed by family and friends who knew her as a very kind and gentle person. Please pray for her beloved husband Pat, daughter Angela, Martin, Neil and all their families in their time of grief.

Carols by Candlelight - Sun. 16th Dec.

4.00 p.m. Theme: 'Gifts'. You can contribute by bringing your gift for the Giving Tree or the Foodbank to this event where they will be offered as part of the celebration.

Carols in Park and in Town Centre

"Carols in Bedford Park" on Sun. 9th Dec. starting at 2.30 p.m. near The Pavilion Café. People are invited to sing carols as part of a flash mob on Sat. 15th Dec. This will start in Church Square at 10.00 a.m. Both events have been arranged by Hope in Bedfordshire. See www.hopebeds.org

Alpha Course

Let us give thanks for the resounding success of the Alpha Course. Thanks to all guests who supported and attended the course, and for their positive feedback. Thanks to Kathy, Margaret, Geraldine, Pam, Rose, Irene, Mary and Breda, our team behind the scenes who set up and cleared away. Thanks to our group facilitators and helpers: Erica, Christine, Maria, Sheila, Beth, Becca, Irene, Vic and George who enabled honest, stimulating and enjoyable group discussions about life, God, the Catholic Faith and Christianity. Thanks to Kathy for all of the delicious meals and desserts she cooked and to Sheila Allen for sorting out all of the course's paperwork and administration. Thanks to all who prayed for the Alpha Course, the Alpha team and guests. Continue to pray for all those who attended the recent course and for the success of next year's course. We extend a well-deserved "thank you" to Joan Kedward for her unstinting efforts and boundless enthusiasm in organising and running the course!

Could You Help? Carol Singing 13th Dec.

Goldington Tesco (under cover area near the entrance). Arrive between 6 - 8 p.m. and stay for as long as you like. We need singers, musicians and car drivers to transport donated items to the Prebend Centre which helps Bedford's homeless. All welcome!

Advent Information

Please take a flyer from the narthex.

Security

On Wednesday evening whilst Holy Cross premises were in use a car was broken into and items stolen. The car was parked immediately outside the parish office. Can we therefore please encourage you to be conscious of security and to not leave any items of value in your car?

Cake!

Thank you to those who baked such wonderful Christ the King cakes; the faces of children covered in chocolate and coffee buttercream suggest they were much enjoyed by our youngest parishioners!

A New Start

As today we start a new liturgical year let us take to heart this statement: "Remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm and look forward to the future with confidence". **St John Paul II**

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Bishop Peter invites you. 8th Dec. - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Patronal Solemnity of the Diocese. Closing Mass for the Year of Prayer and Vocation at 11.30 a.m. in the Cathedral. Principal celebrant: The Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Edward Adams

Christmas Tree Festival

St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square. 5th - 8th Dec. 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. On 9th Dec. midday - 4.00 p.m. For more information visit www.lovebedford.co.uk

Stickers

Parents of young children: Please ensure you encourage your children to come and collect a Jesse Tree sticker set from one of the clergy after Mass. These have been shipped in from America where they are immensely popular with families!

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Sat. 1st December

Dcn. Tony, M. Wells, P. Hanway, M. Quinlan,
M. Hulatt

Sun. 2nd December

Dcn. Tony, A. Spina, J. Jarman, I. Mahona,
M. Johnson

Readers' Rota

1st/2nd December

Sat. 6.00 S. & M. Ferreira

Sun. 9.15 P. Commons & M. Makin

8th/9th December

Sat. 6.00 M. Clitheroe & S. Whiterod

Sun. 9.15 M. Orr & J. Jarman

Offertory Collection

Offertory £1018.55 (£398.55 + £620
standing orders)

Church Cleaning

w/b 3rd Dec. - Team B

w/b 10th Dec. - Team C

Refreshments after Mass

After the 9.15 Mass on Sundays and after
the 9.30 Mass on Tuesdays.

Hospital Visiting

Due to Data Protection we no longer receive patients' names. If you know of someone who is a patient in Bedford Hospital and would like a visit from a member of the Chaplaincy Team please ring Fr. Malcolm (350628). However, whilst Fr Malcolm is recuperating due to ill-health, those in hospital (or their relatives) are asked to contact their own Parish Priest who will seek to provide sacramental care.

New Parishioners - Welcome to Holy Cross

Please complete a "New Parishioners" form, found in the porch and return forms to the Parish office.

Daily Homily

Daily homilies from Fr. Francis Maple at
<https://fatherfrancismaple.co.uk/home>

Prayer List

The Sick

Frances Litchfield	Pia Tesaro
Lina Darbun	Rosemary Symes
Gillian O'Connell	Maria & Clive Tipple
Mimio Miraglia	Victoria Keenan
Ken & Bernie Blackburn	Claire Noone
Gabriela Rehberger	Emiliana Quaranta
Emilio Valerio	Sheila Radcliffe
Alan Church	John Cavanna
Judi & Don Kores	Billy Walsh
Sophie Robinson	Joan Turney
Maria & Joe Ward	Fred Ellis
Se Doyle	Mary Orr
Steve Bociek	Pam Cummins
Sean, Cora & Michael O'Brien	Gary Hughes
Sr Ann Tighe	Fiona Rode
Grace Carter	Julie Burnage
Paul Jeffs	

Recently Deceased

Chris Joyner	Doreen McCarthy
Charles Keenan	

Anniversaries at This Time

Eric Austin Allen	Olive Bishopp
Fred Dean	Eileen Thomas

Others in Need of Prayer

Thomas family	Stella Good
Sullivan family	Cataldo family
Markie family	Palma family
Sylvia Blackburn	Brisco family
Val & Eddie Johnson	Shaun O'Flaherty
Arzu family	Maria Hill
Abbott family	Louise Coulson
Hannon family	Linda & family
Jones family	Marie Russell
Matthew Sheffield	Rose family
Jay Wells	Brian Wright
Hannah & Lynda Bishopp	
Mary Tengeush's family	

Bedford Foodbank - Current Needs

Tinned chicken, tinned tuna, tinned fruit, tinned spaghetti hoops, UHT Fruit juice, UHT milk, squash, cup-a-soup, tinned rice pudding, tea bags, jars of pasta sauce, and small bags of rice.

Advent - Catholic Bishop's Liturgy Office of England and Wales

- Advent, as a period of expectation and preparation, is closely related to, yet distinct from, Christmas for which it prepares.
- Advent has a twofold character. It is the season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming is remembered and is the season to direct the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming in judgement at the end of time.
- Advent is a period for devout and joyful expectation. The Christian community lives in an "interim" time between two historical events: the coming of Christ in the flesh and His coming in glory at the end of time. Popular devotions should respect the nature and character of Advent...The anticipation of Christmas should be avoided.
- Songs, carols and devotions which focus on the Nativity are out of place in Advent...This is to avoid compromising the season of Advent and provides an opportunity to better indicate the distinction between the Christian observance of Christmas and the secular celebrations.
- Where they are the custom, the *Advent Crown* and the *Jesse Tree* help to sustain an expectant orientation and may be associated with the celebration of Mass.
- Prayer Vigils, Services of Light and the Sacrament of Reconciliation can be very effective in fostering a sense of watchfulness and prayer and in disposing the community to a more fruitful participation in the Masses and season of Advent.