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Website: <https://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/>

Email: parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org

Church Hall/ Upper Room Bookings: Contact Ewa on Thurs or Fri morning via
parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org or 01536 512497

Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

Assistant Priest: Fr. Elvis Jose

3rd Sunday of Advent

17th December 2023

MASS TIMES AT ST. EDWARD'S, KETTERING

- Tuesday - 10.00 am
- Wednesday - 10.00 am
- Thursday - 7.00 pm (*This evening Mass is with music on screen*)
- Friday - 7.00 pm
- Saturday Vigil Mass - 6.30 pm ***After Mass - confession on request***
- Sunday Early Mass - 8.30 am
- Sunday Family Mass - 10.30 am

MASS TIMES AT BURTON LATIMER

The **1st** and **3rd** Sunday of every month - **9.00 am**

MASS TIMES AT DESBOROUGH

The **2nd** and **4th** Sunday of every month - **9.00 am**

MASS TIMES AT ROTHWELL

The **1st** and **3rd** Sunday of every month - **12.15 pm**

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For the 5th Sunday of the month, please check the newsletter

GAUDETE SUNDAY



*Over the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts
for Christmas in penitential reflection.*

*But in the middle of the season, Gaudete Sunday
calls us to rejoice in hope!*

THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS



Saturday	06.30 pm - Oliver Brady RIP / - Fr Bruno Murphy int.
Sunday	08.30 am - Margaret Marsh RIP / Maureen Sweeney RIP 09.00 am - / Burton Latimer / - Colin Lovett & Taylor Lovett RIP 10.30 am - Salvatore, Angela and Peter Stifanelli RIP 12.15 pm - / Rothwell / - Pope Francis - birthday int.
Monday	Private Mass - Nora and Michael Mangan RIP
Tuesday	09.30 am - <i>Exposition and Adoration</i> 10.00 am - Fr Richard Moroney RIP / - Maureen Furey RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am - Maria Guadalupe P. Javier RIP / - Lukose Noottanikunnel RIP
Thursday	07.00 pm - Maureen Davies RIP / - Mgr Janusz Śniegocki RIP
Friday	06.30 pm - <i>Adoration and Benediction</i> 07.00 pm - Nadia Swierzbinski RIP 1 st anniversary / - Wanda Moffatt RIP
Saturday	06.30 pm - Nuala Hammond RIP / - for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kano
Sunday	08.30 am - Nadia Swierzbinski RIP 1 st anniversary 10.30 am - For the Parish / - Mgr Janusz Śniegocki RIP

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday **04.00 pm - / Liturgy for children / -** For the Parish
 06.00 pm - / Burton Latimer / - Lynn Webster RIP
 06.00 pm - / Rothwell / - For the Parish
 08.00 pm - Christmas Carols
 08.30 pm - Mgr Janusz Śniegocki RIP / - For the Parish

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday

08.30 am - Souls in Purgatory / - For the Parish

09.00 am - / Desborough / - Michael Dowler RIP

10.30 am - Lally, Fitzmaurice, Hunt and Horan
and deceased family members / - Marilyn Hinson RIP

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE HOLY FATHER!!!



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



- + Fr Richard Moroney** - His funeral will be in Holy Family Catholic Church,
24 Freshwater Close, Marsh Farm, **Luton LU3 3TA**
Reception - Monday 18th December at 5 pm
Requiem Mass - Tuesday 19th December at 11 am
Committal at Luton Crematorium at 12.30 pm

+ Monsignor Janusz Śniegocki - It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Monsignor Janusz Śniegocki (1942-2023), who used to visit our parish and help Canon John during the summer holidays. I am sure that many parishioners remember him well. Monsignor Janusz and I were ordained in the same diocese of Płock in Poland. When I came to Saint Edward's Parish in 2019, he came to England for the last time to visit me, and share with me all his fond memories of Kettering and the many friends he had in our parish. His funeral took place in Poland. Fr Gregory

- + Gordon Edwards** - His funeral will be held at the Crematorium on Thursday,
4th January.

- + Mary Ellen Roberts** - Her funeral will be held at St Edward's on Monday,
8th January at 11.30 am.

In our prayers, let us remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends. Let us especially remember those who have recently passed away.

THE DAWN OF CHRISTIANITY



Mary's pregnancy presented Joseph with few options; as a "righteous" Jew he wished to follow the Law but at the same time save personal face and still have compassion on his betrothed. Having decided to separate from Mary informally, a dream clarified things for Joseph when he received God's will in his sleep.

But how did Joseph really know that message came from God? How could anyone believe in a virgin giving birth? Matthew's gospel cites a quotation from Isaiah and gives the answer. While Isaiah only referred to a teenage girl expecting a birth, Matthew (along with Luke) presented the impossible; a virgin birth was the means for God to live among his people! (They will call Him "Immanuel", which means "God is with us" – Matthew 1:23)

Later, St. Luke uses a meeting between two pregnant women in order to connect to two of the most important movements in first century Judaism, namely the followers of John the Baptist and the disciples of Jesus.

John (and his lineage) represented the end of the Old Testament prophets. He was an unusual desert wanderer who preached from conviction and reckless abandon; his speech and lifestyle summed up the prophetic tradition in Judaism.

John's elderly father, Zechariah, represented Judaism and its priestly tradition but its ancient character stifled novelty. However, John's elderly mother, Elizabeth, represented the open, trusting tradition of the female in Judaism. Just as the elderly Sarah became the mother of Isaac and the old Hannah became the mother of Samuel, Elizabeth could receive and rejoice in the birth of a son, even at an old age.

The Blessed Virgin Mary represented a new revelation. God was entering the human stage not only with a new message but in a completely new way! Through Mary, the Lord was visiting His people.

So the scene was set. Mary travelled to the house of Zachariah and greeted Elizabeth. Here Luke turned tradition on its head. Instead of the elderly woman receiving honour from the younger, the tables were turned; Mary was honoured (along with her Son - Luke 1:42-45). Because of her age, Elizabeth should have been the one who received the attention of maternity. But Mary received praise because she believed in the new revelation. Now Elizabeth (and her son) too believed because the Spirit acted.

There are themes of exaltation and humility here. Through the figure of Elizabeth, Luke humbled the old tradition in a time that honoured ancient revelation.

Through the figure of Mary, he exalted the new revelation. Through the meeting, he bridged the old to the new. From this moment on, Luke would exalt Jesus and diminish John's role. For Luke, the time of Judaism had past; the time of *Christianity had dawned*.

How do we sometimes cling to the old, yet welcome the new? How does that attitude affect our faith?

CHILDREN'S LITURGY



SUNDAY, 17th December at 10.30 am
followed by tea and coffee at the parish hall.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Registration for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 6th January 2024 at 9 am**, in the Parish Hall. Children must be in year 3 or older.

NEW HEATING IN ROTHWELL CHURCH



I would like to thank all those involved in the instillation of the new heating at St Bernadette's. It was not an easy endeavour, involving a lot of form filling, decisions about the right type of heating, and giving up time, so that the church was available for electricians. On behalf of everybody in the parish, I would especially like to thank the anonymous donor, who paid for the new heating.

ST EDWARD'S FOOD KITCHEN



We would like to say a huge Thank You to everyone in the Parish who has kindly donated money/food/toiletries etc to our food kitchen over the past year. We really do appreciate your help and support, as do our many guests who benefit from your generosity.

Throughout 2023 we have served 3,130 meals, including takeaways, to people struggling with poverty, loneliness and isolation. Thank you so much.

SEMINARIAN IN THE PARISH

In the middle on January, we will be hosting a seminarian who started his seminary formation this year at the Royal English College in Valladolid in Spain. His name is **Renver** and his family is originally from the Philippines, although they are now living in Luton. I am sure you will all make him feel welcome.

CRANSLEY HOSPICE



Another bag of used stamps from the parish has been taken to Cransley Hospice which they sell for additional funding. We all get lots of used stamps at this time of year so please save them and put them in the box at the back of the church. Many thanks for your support.

COFFEE MORNINGS



The next **Wednesday Coffee Morning** will be run by **The Burton Latimer Community** after 10.00 am Mass on **3rd January**.

COFFEE MORNINGS 2024

On **3rd January** - **The Burton Latimer Community**

On **7th February** - **The Desborough Community**

On **6th March** - **The Rothwell Community**

On **3rd April** - **Legion of Mary**

Any funds raised will go to the communities for flowers and other necessities.

AN INITIATIVE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH



Youth Group at St Edward's in 1990

Our Parish is very blessed with a number of groups and societies. However, most of them are for adults. We are hoping to launch a specific group for our young people on Friday, **5th January 2024 at 6.30 pm until 8.00 pm**. I want this to be a fun time with games, competitions, art work, and there will be always something delicious to eat. The main goal of these meetings would be to learn more about our Faith, to build a strong relationship with God and to make friendships with other young people, which could last a lifetime. Initially, these meetings will be held on the first Friday of the month in the parish hall. They will be open for those who are between 12 - 17 years. If these meetings are successful, we might organise days away. My long-term aim is that as these young people mature, we will be able to set up a group for young adults. I ask all parents to support this initiative and encourage their children to attend our Parish Youth Group.

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE

If you would like your son or daughter to take part in youth group activities, please collect a registration form at the sacristy before or after any Mass. We can also email you a form if you wish, so you can print it off and fill it in.



A Lifeline for Marriage!

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?

Has your marriage become stressed, unloving, cold?

Do you argue often?

Do you want to improve your communication?

Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking about it?

Do you want to try again?

The **Retrouvaille** programme may be just what you need!

The next programme commences with a virtual weekend

8-11 February 2024

The following programme commences with a face to face weekend in Welwyn Garden City

14-16 June 2024

For more information phone or text: 07887 296983 or 07973 380443

Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

Website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Complete confidentiality assured

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST - CAFOD



You will be aware of the terrible conflict in Israel and Gaza. It is easy to feel helpless from such a distance. CAFOD have produced three ways we can respond; prayer, donating and sending a message to our Foreign Secretary. Find out more here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact Fr Gregory. Parents who would like their children to be baptised are invited to attend Baptismal Preparation on the first Monday of the month at **7 pm** at St Edward's Church. The next meeting will be on Monday, **8th January 2024**.

A PLACE OF CALM



Dear Parents of our youngest children, we realise how difficult it is for you when your children get 'lively' or 'upset'. Therefore, we invite you to take them upstairs to the organ loft, which is above the sacristy. It is a safe place with a triple sound-proof window overlooking the altar. There is a speaker up there, so you will be able to take an active part in the Mass and your children will become calm and comfortable. Please take care on the stone steps.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING



If you are planning to get married abroad or at St Edward's Church, you must give us at least six months' notice. This is to ensure that all the preparation that couples are required to do, and the pre-marriage courses are completed along with the necessary paperwork. You are always welcome to approach me after any Mass, so that you can begin making wedding plans.

ST EDWARD'S PARISH FACEBOOK GROUP



The Parish of St. Edward, RC Church, Kettering.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/>

St. Nicholas Owen Catholic Church - Burton Latimer.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/809856073037388/>

PARISH CALL AND CARE



The Parish is continuing with its "Parish Call and Care scheme" to support isolated and elderly parishioners. If you are someone who would like to receive calls, from a fellow parishioner, or know of someone who you feel would appreciate such a call, please contact Fr Gregory in the first instance on 01536 512497 or email parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number) parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number)

USEFUL LINKS

National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Refuge website <https://www.refuge.org.uk/>

Kettering Foodbank 1 Horse Market, Unit 1B, Kettering, NN16 0DG (side entrance at the top of Market Street) Tel. 07709 741353 <https://www.ketteringfoodbank.org/>

A list of free food outlets in Kettering (updated March, 2022):

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Kettering-Food-Outlets-Virus-Update-no32.pdf>

Mary's Meals <https://youtu.be/llqBIXrVJzw> / **Right to Life**
<https://righttolife.org.uk>

Redundancy Coaching <http://www.vitaeopus.co.uk> provides free online information and advice about Job Hunting, Self-Employment and Active Retirement for Parishioners adversely affected workwise by the pandemic. Please pass the link on to anyone who may find it useful.

Safe Spaces We welcome contact from anyone hurt by abuse, whether that be through your experience within the Church or elsewhere. **Safe Spaces** is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org

Please have a look at this page from the Northampton Diocese website:
[Northampton Diocese Resources](#) which gives further information and contact details.

Safe Spaces is an independent and confidential support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church. Please see parish noticeboards for further details.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY DONATIONS



If there are any Parishioners who would like to join the weekly box system / gift aid scheme, then please do let us know by completing a form, available from the porch table and putting it on the collection plate or through the Presbytery letterbox. To those who already donate through the Gift Aid Scheme, please be reminded that if your tax situation has changed or you have moved house, then please let us know.

There are several other ways of donating as follows;

- **Online** This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/>. Scroll down to find the 'Donate' button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. By indicating in the notes section of the donate page that the donation is for "**St. Edward's Kettering**" your donation will go into our parish account with the diocese, and will at the same time help our diocese as a whole. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation to your parish if you are a taxpayer.
- **Standing Order** via your own bank. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. The information required to make the donation is as follows. Bank; NatWest Sort Code; 60-06-11 Account Name; 46898093 Account Name; Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Payment Ref; St. Edward's, Kettering
- **Make a donation to your own parish over the phone** - Each 'Tuesday' between 10.00am and 4.00pm, a member of the finance team will be available at Bishop's House to take your calls to donate to your parish community over the telephone. To donate simply call 01604 712065 with your debit or credit card details. (If you get the answering machine just leave your name and number NOT bank details and you will be called back). You can make a one-off donation or regular weekly or monthly payments, on any Tuesday until further notice.
- You can also support the Parish by **making a donation through the letterbox** of the presbytery at any time.

Thank you for any help you can give.

YOUR LEGACY

Your Legacy - Invest in the future of your parish and our Diocese. Gifts in your Will are a memorable and lasting way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information, pick up a bookmark; contact your parish office, alternatively, go to www.northamptondiocese.org/your-legacy or contact Brian Emmanuel on 01604 600337 or brian.emmanuel@northamptondiocese.org

DIOCESAN E-NEWSLETTER

Our diocesan e-news is now published fortnightly.

Keep up to date with news and opportunities from across our diocese by signing up to receive updates straight into your inbox. Simply visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/#signup>

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY



The Universe Catholic Weekly Online Newspaper

Is true to its mission of being “a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it” Keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription.

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We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations about your local parish activities.

Below is the link to the latest edition of the Universe Catholic Weekly:
<https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/march-2023/UNIVERSE-24-MARCH.pdf>

You might have noticed that we have launched a hard copy of the paper on Friday 19th May. All your favourite news, views and faith articles are now available in print format alongside the digital edition.

The printed version of The Universe can be posted directly to print subscribers. It is identical to the digital version; the only difference is that it's a paper copy.

Subscription Rates for Print copy

3 month subscription (13 weekly copies) - £42 (£3.20 per copy)
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Cover price for a single copy - £3.50

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Michelle Jones on 07436 617650 or email her at:

michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk