**St Francis of Assisi Church**

**Year of the Word**

**25 High Street Shefford SG17 5DD**

**Parish Priest:** Canon Bennie Noonan: Tel: 01462 813436 [frbennie@btinternet.com](mailto:frbennie@btinternet.com)

**Parish Deacon**: Rev Peter J Hyde: Tel 01462 711702 [hyde888@btinternet.com](mailto:hyde888@btinternet.com)

Parish Web Site: **saintfrancis.uk**

**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**19th September 2021**

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| Sunday 19th | 9:00am  5:15pm | People of the Parish  Fr John Ibekwe dec’d |
| Monday 20th | 9:30am | Word & Communion |
| Tuesday 21st | 9:30am | Word & Communion |
| Wednesday 22nd | 7:00pm  7:30pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  Word & Communion |
| Thursday 23rd | 9:30am | All Lay Ministers of the Parish |
| Friday 24th | 9:30am  10:00am - 10:30am | Word & Communion  Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Saturday 25th | 11:00am | Bill Murphy dec’d |
| Sunday 26th | 9:00am  5:15pm | Colin Veitch intentions  Bertha Rodrigues dec’d |

*All Mass intentions for the weeks of Sunday 12 and Sunday 19 have been moved into late September or early October as Canon Bennie Noonan is away on holiday.*

***Please note: Canon Bennie will say Mass on Thursday morning at 9:30am***

**Psalm Response:** *The Lord upholds my life.*

**Gospel Welcome:**

*Alleluia, Alleluia. I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia.*

**SECOND COLLECTION**

**This week** - Home Missions

**PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE AT MASS for:**

* 9:00am Mass on Sundays;
* 5:15pm Mass on Sundays

**To register for a place either:**

* email [hydepeter1@gmail.com](mailto:hydepeter1@gmail.com) or
* text 07713580757

**Please only use either text or email** stating which Mass you would like to attend and the numbers in your party/bubble that will be coming to Mass.

**Confirmation of your booking will be sent to you.**

You must follow all Covid 19 requirements as published in our Method Statement. **PLEASE NOTE:** if you have a place booked for a Sunday Mass and you are unable to attend, please notify us on the same phone number/email that you made your booking on.

**Union of Catholic Mothers**

The UCM will start their meetings again from Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 7:30pm – for the time being they will be held in **THE CHURCH**. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and are open to all ladies of the parish whether married or single. Why not come along on Tuesday 28th – you will be given a very warm welcome.

**Number of cases down but sadly there were eight deaths recorded -** Over the last week, cases in Central Bedfordshire have gone down by 193 to 779. **Sadly, there were eight deaths registered in our area in the last reporting week.** The reports from our neighbours show a similar pattern:

* Bedford - 455 new cases, down 33 with 3 deaths
* Luton - 732 new cases, down 119 with 6 deaths reported
* Milton Keynes – 685 new cases, down 148 and 2 deaths

This is worrying and a sign that we must not drop our guard. As we go into Autumn and spend more time indoors it is even more important that we follow the guidance to keep ourselves and others safe. Booster jabs are being rolled out now so if you are offered a third dose of the vaccine, please make sure you take it up to give yourself and others the best protection.

* Meeting outdoors is safer, let fresh air in indoors
* Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces
* [Get tested](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/) and self-isolate if required
* If you haven’t already, [get vaccinated](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/)

**Forthcoming events at St Peter’s, Biggleswade**

Sunday 26th September - We would like to invite you to a  Macmillan Cancer Research Coffee Afternoon, tea, coffee, soft drinks and cakes galore all in aid of a worthwhile cause which affects us all in different ways. The event will be held in the Church at St Peter’s between 2-4 PM.  No tickets required just Donations for refreshments, we hope all our parishioners and St Francis parishioners will join us, to make this an enjoyable afternoon with all proceeds going to a worthy cause.

**ALL CAKE DONATIONS WELCOME**

Of course it wouldn’t be a St Peter’s Event without a raffle, so please come along and meet up with old and new friends to support Macmillan Cancer Research.

**Christmas Grand Draw at St Peters**

Sadly we are unable to hold our annual Christmas Bazaar due to restrictions, but we would like to support our Parish Funds to raise as much money as we can, as this normal event would raise a over a £1000 which helps assist with repairs or buying equipment that Our Parish needs. The  Draw will take place on Saturday 18th December. Prizes include a Cash Prize of £50, a Wonderful Christmas Hamper, a Selection of Wines and a Home Made Christmas Cake. Tickets will be available after all masses at St Peters Biggleswade, including week day masses, from Saturday 2nd of October.

**St John Henry Newman School Open Evening**

Parents of Year 6 pupils are invited to an Open Evening on Thursday 30th September, from 5.30 – 8.30 pm.  There will be three opportunities to attend the Headteacher’s address at 6.00pm, 6.45pm and 7:30pm. The last tour will be at 7:00pm. There will also be tours of the school in the following week.