

Our Parish Family:  
Cherishing the Past,  
Celebrating the Present,  
Embracing the Future.



North Bedford  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The North Bedford  
Catholic Community of  
Holy Cross Church and  
Ss Philip and James Church

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood

| Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time   |  |
|---|--|
| Sunday Mass Cycle: Year C; Weekday: Year 1; Psalter 3   |  |
| The live-stream from HC is at <a href="http://www.mcn.live">www.mcn.live</a><br>HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James |  |
| Sat 12 Jul  | <b>Vigil of the Fifteenth Sunday</b>   |
| 5:30pm HC   | <b>Vigil Mass:</b> Benny Donaghey, RIP   |
| Sun 13 Jul  | <b>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>   |
|   | <b>Stella Maris - Sea Sunday</b>   |
| 9:00am HC   | <b>Mass:</b> Kenneth Blackburn, RIP  |
| 11:00am PJ  | <b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro Populo</i>   |
| 12:00pm HC  | <b>Baptism:</b> D ante Adisa Harkness-Da Silva<br><b>Celebrant:</b> Deacon Tony Quinlan                                      |
| 1:00pm PJ   | <b>Baptism:</b> Georgina Bernadetta Beevor-Reid<br><b>Celebrant:</b> Deacon Crispin Walkling-Lea                             |
| Mon 14 Jul  | <b>Feria</b><br>No liturgy   |
| Tue 15 Jul  | <b>St Bonaventure, Bishop &amp; Doctor - Memorial</b>  |
| 10:15am HC  | <b>Mass:</b> Jean Petts, RIP   |
| Wed 16 Jul  | <b>Feria</b>   |
| 10:15am HC  | <b>Mass:</b> Mark Rae, RIP<br><i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>     |
| Thu 17 Jul  | <b>Feria</b>   |
| 10:15am PJ  | <b>Mass:</b> Josephine Hodgkiss - intention  |
| Fri 18 Jul  | <b>Feria</b>   |
| 10:15am HC  | <b>Mass:</b> Charles, Vladimir, Donald, Anna and Monika - healing  |
| Sat 19 Jul  | <b>Our Lady on Saturday</b>  |
| 10:15am PJ  | <b>Mass:</b> Private intention<br><i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:30am</i> |
| 5:30pm HC   | <b>Vigil Mass:</b> Michelle Di Fiore, RIP - 1 <sup>st</sup> anniv  |
| Sun 20 Jul  | <b>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>   |
| 9:00am HC   | <b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro Populo</i>   |
| 11:00am PJ  | <b>Mass:</b> Byrne Family, RIP   |
| NB: We seek to open the Church <b>thirty minutes</b> before any Mass or liturgy   |  |

**Responsorial Psalm:**  
Seek God, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive,

**A warm welcome to Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM**  
We are happy to announce the imminent arrival of **Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM** to our united parish to assist Fr Alex in pastoral work in North Bedford Catholic Community. **Fr Richard** will be joining us from Nigeria where he is currently working as an assistant priest in one of the parishes run by SMMM priests in Nigeria. **Fr Richard's** first Sunday Masses in the churches will be on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August. Refreshments will be available and you may meet **Fr Richard** after the vigil Mass in Holy Cross and after the 11:00am Mass at Ss Philip and James. We look forward to welcoming **Fr Richard** to our parishes.

**Bishop's visit - Sacrament of Confirmation**  
Bishop David will visit our united community to celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for our children on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00pm in Ss Philip and James church. We hope to see parishioners at Mass to support our young people in their personal faith journeys.

**Sea Sunday** will be celebrated this **Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> July**. It is a day to pray for seafarers and fishers and to thank them for the vital role they play in our lives. Please support this year's **Sea Sunday** by praying for seafarers and giving to the retiring collection after Mass. This is a **mandatory second collection** held in support of **Stella Maris** (formerly Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. Support is essential to continue their mission both in the UK and globally. The Vatican has released a message to mark **Sea Sunday** from Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. You may read this via the hyperlink: [Sea Sunday Message](#)

| Diary for our community                     |   |
|---|---|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> July @ 10:15am             | <b>Year-Six leavers Mass SJR school</b> |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> July - 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug | <b>Pray and Play Summer Camp in HC</b>  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> August @ 7:00pm             | <b>Life in the Spirit in HC</b>         |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept @ 7:00pm              | <b>Confirmation in SsP&amp;J</b>        |

**Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be on Wednesdays in HC after Mass until 11:15am and every Saturday from 11:00 - 11:30am in SsP&J.

**Our Parish Priest is Fr Alexander Ibe, SMMM: Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX**  
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**HC: Holy Cross Church, 355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP**  
**SsP&J/PJ: St Philip and St James Church, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX**  
**Newsletters** are available through **CASPAR**, on our website. To receive the Newsletter electronically, please register with **CASPAR** and tick the relevant box.  
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Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walkling-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; [deaconcrispin.walklinglea@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deaconcrispin.walklinglea@northamptondiocese.org)  
Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC; Shirley Whiterod 07955 670543 and SsP&J; Ann-Marie Blaney 07867 757598  
Website: [northbedfordcatholics.org.uk](http://northbedfordcatholics.org.uk) (Contact the Webmaster through the website) **Facebook: North Bedford Catholic Community**  
Parish Secretary HC, Sheila Allen (Mondays and Thursdays: 9:00am - 12:00pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; [parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org)  
Parish Secretary Ss P&J, Mariateresa Quinlan (Tuesdays: 11:15am - 3:15pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; [Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org)  
**Items for the Newsletter to the editor, by the Sunday before publication. Tel: 07986 357 320; email: [charlie.stallard@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.stallard@gmail.com)**



Please  
register with  
**CASPAR**



**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE  
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

The final day of our summer camp will be a fiesta themed celebration! All are welcome!

Mass, games, bouncy castle, face painting & performances by our summer camp children. Please bring a blanket & picnic lunch, hot & cold drinks will be provided

**FRIDAY  
1ST  
AUGUST**

**HOLY CROSS  
CHURCH  
9AM-3PM**



In **Pray and Play** we celebrated Ikem's fifth birthday. Many birthday blessings to Ikem and his family 🙏🙏  
Thank you for sharing this special day and cake with our **Pray and Play** family.

### Women of Hope - A Day of Celebration and Hope

As part of this **Jubilee Year** we invite you to a joyful day of **prayer, conversation and reflection**, Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, St Mary's, Woburn Sands, 11:00am - 16:00pm. Don't forget; bring your own lunch!

### "Called & Equipped"...

...is the diocesan one-year discipleship-and-formation course. Join the second of our **free introductory webinars** to explore "Called and Equipped" on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 7:30pm. Sign up via the diocesan website.

### Youth 2000 Summer Festival 2025

Taking place in the grounds of Ampleforth College from Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> to Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, the **Youth 2000 Summer Festival** provides young adults (ages 16-35) from across the UK the opportunity to come together and explore

faith, build relationships and find hope.

Register to reserve your place at:

[youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025](https://youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025)

### World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

The Church will mark Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> September as part of the **Season of Creation** (1<sup>st</sup> Sept – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct). Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, Pope Leo XIV has promulgated a **Mass for the Day**, encouraging renewed prayer and commitment. The Holy Father's message, "*Seeds of Peace and Hope*", invites us to see care for creation as an expression of faith and a path to peace. See the hyperlink to [read the full message](#)

### Northampton Diocesan Pilgrimage to France

Paray-le-Monial • Cluny • Taizé

Join Bishop David Oakley from Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October with pilgrims from across the diocese on a deeply spiritual journey marking the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St Margaret Mary Alacoque**. Places are limited. Early booking is strongly recommended. Details and registration:

<https://www.jcjourneys.com/northampton-burgundy>

Please pray and fast for the **end of abortion and euthanasia** on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, the *Vigil of the Feast of St James*. These days seem quite dark, what with Parliament voting to partly decriminalise abortion and voting to legalise euthanasia. Please invite others to join us in praying and fasting for life. You may do so via this hyperlink: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1419157822872567>

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual **GK Chesterton Pilgrimage** takes place on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July. As always there are several ways you may join in; either in prayer, or by joining us in walking a short section of the pilgrimage, or even in walking the whole 27 miles! **Sponsor Nathanael as he raises funds for Good Counsel's life-saving work:**

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-mothers-and-babies-with-the-gk-chesterton-pilgrimage> You may send prayer intentions for us to pray for along the way. We do not make the intentions public: [catholicgksociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:catholicgksociety@yahoo.co.uk)

Other details of the walk and the Mass are here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1675870979701803>

### Year-Six leavers' Mass

Our Year-Six students from St John Rigby School will be joining us at Mass **this Tuesday, in Holy Cross Church** at our 10:15 Mass to thank God and celebrate their successful completion and departure from primary school to higher education.

### Life in the Spirit

Following the success of the Life in the Spirit seminars, the Holy-Cross-hub prayer group will be continuing their journey of **Life in the Spirit** by meeting once a month on the first Tuesday at 7:00pm for prayer, scripture readings and reflection; coming together as one big family to give praise and worship to Jesus Christ our Lord.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August in Holy Cross parish hall and everyone is invited and welcome to join. The Gospel Choir rehearses in the hall from 6:00 to 7:00pm and anyone who wishes to arrive a little earlier is very welcome to come and join in the singing.

**Holy Cross** is still in need of a volunteer **cleaner** to replace a recent retirement. The commitment is just over an hour every 5 - 6 weeks. Contact Margaret Wells: 07931 338 344

On **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July**, the St Thomas More Theatre Group are proudly presenting **Lionel Bart's 'Oliver!'** starting at 7:00pm each night. Tickets are £5 and may be purchased on the night with cash or card.

Pope Francis presided over an **Ordinary Public Consistory for the Vote on Causes for Canonisation**, formally approving the canonisations of eight Blessed.

Among them are **Blessed Carlo Acutis** and **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**, who will be canonised together this year, on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**The Chisen Trustees** would like to thank all those who supported our very successful **Family Fun Night** at Christ the King church Hall last month. We raised the magnificent sum of £1,100, all of which will go towards the completion of the building of **The House of Hope** in Ghana.