

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

Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year C; Weekday: Year 1; Psalter 4

The live-stream from HC is at [www.mcn.live](http://www.mcn.live)

HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James

Sat 19 Jul	<b>Vigil of the Sixteenth Sunday</b>
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> Kenneth Blackburn, RIP - 1 <sup>st</sup> anniv
11:00am PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Byrne Family, RIP
Mon 21 Jul	<b>Feria</b> No liturgy
Tue 22 Jul	<b>St Mary Magdalen - Feast</b>
10:15am HC	<b>Mass:</b> Anna, Monika and Robert - healing
Wed 23 Jul	<b>St Bridget of Sweden, Religious Patroness of Europe - Feast</b>
10:15am HC	<b>Mass:</b> Fr Wayne - healing <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
Thu 24 Jul	<b>Feria</b>
10:15am PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Leah, Dmitry, Ivanka, Lorna, Michael, Fr Vincent, Donny and families - healing
Fri 25 Jul	<b>St James, Apostle - Feast</b>
10:15am HC	<b>Mass:</b> Alexander, Nikolay, Tatyana, Scott, Kyrlyo, Benjamin, Mahmud and their families - healing
Sat 26 Jul	<b>Ss Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Memorial</b>
10:15am PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Sergei, Caroline, Alexander, Volodymyr, Salman and families - intention <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:30am</i>
12:00pm HC	<b>Baptism:</b> Aoife Keirnan <b>Celebrant:</b> Deacon Crispin Walkling-Lea
5:30pm HC	<b>Vigil Mass:</b> Dilys Willis, RIP
Sun 27 Jul	<b>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
9:00am HC	<b>Mass:</b> Clare Glendenning - healing
11:00am PJ	<b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro Populo</i>

NB: We seek to open the Church **thirty minutes** before any Mass or liturgy

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

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&J. We hope the parishes support our young people in their faith journey.

Altar Servers Training

All existing **Altar Servers** and those who made their First Holy Communion recently who would like to join **Altar Servers** are encouraged to participate in the **Training and pizza** gathering to welcome the new ones. This training and welcome is to take place this Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 6:00pm at SsP&J. We will also plan towards rehearsing for the confirmation Mass coming up on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September. **All Altar Servers are encouraged to attend the meeting.**

Parish Youth Ministry

Our united parish will be starting a monthly **Youth Ministry** for 13 to 18 year-olds in September. Activities will include games, health talks, career guidance and spiritual exercises, plus refreshments! The first meeting is scheduled to take place on **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September in Holy Cross Hall** from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Register your interest with the Parish Secretary at [Parish.HolyCross@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:Parish.HolyCross@northamptondiocese.org)

Our united parish will be updating the statistics and data it has via **CASPAR**. Therefore, we call on all **Catholic Association and Religious Organizations** in our parishes to inform us, via the parishes secretaries, if the association(s) you belong to do not appear in the following list: **Guild of St. Stephen, SVP, Lay SSCC, KSC, Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (KHS), The Catenians, Prego, Bedford Guardians of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Cross Hub prayer group, Bedford OFS, Isaiah Journey, BIAPT, DHS Lay Associates, Cambridge Nazareth Trust and Catholic Union of Great Britain.**

Diary for our community

28 <sup>th</sup> July - 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	<b>Pray and Play Summer Camp in HC</b>
12 <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

Tel: (01234) 352607 Email: [fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org)

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**, either by **QR code** or **hyperlink**, and tick the relevant box. (Holy Cross: [www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969](http://www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969)

Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; [deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org) (Ss Philip and James: [www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971](http://www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971)

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walkling-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; [deaconcrispin.walklinglea@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deaconcrispin.walklinglea@northamptondiocese.org)

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC; Shirley Whitehead 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)



[www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969](http://www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969)



[www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971](http://www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971)



**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**



The First Holy Communion candidates celebrating their rite of passage,



**Life in the Spirit** will meet monthly on the **second 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. **Please note the change from the previous notice.** The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 12<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.



The children, of all ages, enjoyed a very successful **Spiritual Triathlon** which involved morning Mass, a walk through Bedford to Holy Cross church, and Rosary. The target of £600 was raised to aid fund raising programmes in our united community. Splendid!



See previous newsletter for the following entries:

**"Called & Equipped"** this Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 7:30pm.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual **GK Chesterton**

**Pilgrimage** takes place on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July. Details here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1675870979701803>

**Youth 2000 Summer Festival 2025** In the grounds of Ampleforth College, Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> to Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August. [youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025](https://youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025)

**Northampton Diocesan Pilgrimage to France - 2025**

Paray-le-Monial • Cluny • Taizé  
From Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October:

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

Please pray and fast for the **end of abortion and euthanasia** this Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> July. For details see:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1419157822872567>

**National Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life** will take place at the **Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham** on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

This year's pilgrimage, led by Bishop John Keenan of Paisley, comes at a time of growing concern as fresh attacks on the sanctity of life continue to emerge in society and Parliament. Whatever the outcomes of current debates, we recognise that further challenges to the dignity of human life are likely. Coaches will depart from parishes across the diocese to bring pilgrims to Walsingham. We encourage clergy, religious, and lay faithful to join us - either in person or via the Shrine's live-stream—as we unite in prayer and reparation before Our Blessed Mother.

**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). See this hyperlink to [read the full message](#)

Pope Francis presided over an **Ordinary Public Consistory for the Vote on Causes for Canonisation**, formally approving the canonisations of eight Blesseds including **Blessed Carlo Acutis** and **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**, who will be canonised this year, on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Volunteers to help your churches run smoothly

**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**

**SsP&J** is also in need of a further couple of volunteers to help count the collections. Again, just an hour of your time every few weeks. **Margaret Wells: 07931 338 344**

#### Hospital Chaplaincy

If you know of a parishioner who is in hospital and would like a visit, or if you have been admitted, and would like the Catholic Chaplain to visit, please contact **Deacon Tony** on 01234 950 453 as soon as possible.

The **Bethlehem Nativity Group (BNG)**, A missionary group from Bethlehem in the Holy Land, will visit us on the weekend 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> August to talk briefly about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families, any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated.

#### SmartLoving Fertility - Year of Jubilee

To celebrate the Jubilee Year which is marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God and with one another, **Catholic marriage ministry**, SmartLoving, is offering its Fertility online course as a **free gift**.

The course is designed to teach couples the **Sympto-Thermal** method to manage their fertility in line with their faith. It incorporates a unique blend of scientific insights with relationship frameworks and Catholic Theology to foster intimacy and help couples flourish.

Use Coupon code:  
**Jubilee2025** for FREE access to SmartLoving Fertility, available for July/August on the website:

