

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 August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

| Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time | | |
|---|--|------------|
| Sunday Mass Cycle: Year C; Weekday: Year 1; Psalter 2 | | |
| The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live | | |
| HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James | | |
| Sat 2 Aug | Vigil of the Eighteenth Sunday | |
| 5:30pm HC | Vigil Mass: Virginia Nwankwo, RIP | |
| Sun 3 Aug | Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | |
| 9:00am HC | Mass: Anne and Francis Simmonds, RIP | |
| 11:00am PJ | Mass: Colette Diamond, RIP | |
| Mon 4 Aug | St John Mary Vianney, Priest - Memorial | No liturgy |
| Tue 5 Aug | Feria | |
| 10:15am HC | Mass: Dinah Keane, RIP | |
| Wed 6 Aug | The Transfiguration of the Lord - Feast | |
| 10:15am HC | Mass: Fr Thomas, Bella, Caroline, Maxim, Kristi, Erdogan, Tokayeu, Shehabaz and Ehus - healing | |
| followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am | | |
| Thu 7 Aug | Feria | |
| 10:15am PJ | Mass: Eric, Ali, Ding, Kassym, Alexander, Ben, Vladimir and families - healing | |
| Fri 8 Aug | St Dominic, Priest - Memorial | |
| 10:15am HC | Mass: Michael Simmonds - intention | |
| Sat 9 Aug | St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), Virgin and Martyr | |
| Patron of Europe - Feast | | |
| 10:15am PJ | Mass: Joe, Andrei and families | |
| followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:30am | | |
| 5:30pm HC | Vigil Mass: Tom Treacy, RIP | |
| Sun 10 Aug | Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | |
| 9:00am HC | Mass: Anne and Gerry Maxwell, RIP | |
| 11:00am PJ | Mass: Missa pro Populo | |
| NB: We seek to open the Church thirty minutes before any Mass or liturgy | | |

Responsorial Psalm:
O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.

There will be **NO Children's Liturgies** at HC and SsP&J in August. Liturgies recommence on Sunday, 7th September.


Bishop's visit - Sacrament of Confirmation
Bishop David will visit our united community to celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for our children on Thursday, 11th September at 7:00pm in Ss&J.

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a process in the Catholic Church that prepares adults for the sacraments of Baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist. The RCIA is open to people of different faith backgrounds to become full members of the Catholic church. The programme, which begins in September, runs in stages of study and prayers. Please email the parish office via parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or call 01234 353116 or 01234 352607 to register. Please inform anyone you know who might like to join the programme.


The **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, on Friday, 15th August, is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Therefore we will be having two Masses:
Thursday, 14th August in SsP&J at 7:00pm (Vigil)
Friday, 15th August in HC at 10:15am
Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Alma Patricia Devis, RIP** whose Funeral Liturgy is this Wednesday, 6th August in SsP&J at 1:30 pm. A burial service will take place after the Funeral Liturgy at Norse Road.
Ss Philip and James parish office is closed this week as Maria is off on holiobobs.

These **QR-codes** will take you directly to the site where you may make donations in the same way as if using the **DONA** machines in the narthexes of our churches.
The **QR-codes** are displayed in our narthexes too!

Holy Cross



Ss Philip and James



Diary for our community
12th August @ 7:00pm **Life in the Spirit in HC**
11th Sept @ 7:00pm **Confirmation in SsP&J**
12th Sept @ 6:30pm **Youth Group in HC**

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
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, and on our website. To receive our 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)
(Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971)
Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org
Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walking-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org
Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC: Shirley Whitehead 07955 670543 and SsP&J: Ann-Marie Blaney 07867 757598
Website: northbedfordcatholics.org.uk (Contact the Webmaster through the website) Facebook: [North Bedford Catholic Community](https://www.facebook.com/northbedfordcatholiccommunity)
Parish Secretary HC, Sheila Allen (Mondays and Thursdays: 9:00am - 12:00pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org
Parish Secretary Ss P&J, Mariateresa Quinlan (Closed for holiobobs) Tel: (01234) 353116; Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org
Items for the Newsletter to the editor, by the Sunday before publication. Tel/text: 07986 357 320; email: charlie.stallard@gmail.com



NBCC NEW YOUTH GROUP!

Who is it for? Those aged 13 to 18

What will we be doing? Games, activities, guest speakers, discussion, prayer and more, plus food!



When is it? Monthly, starting Friday, 12th September 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Where is it? Holy Cross Church Hall

Come along and have some fun!

Sign up sheets are available at Holy Cross church or Ss Philip & James church, or use the QR code:

NBCC Youth Group



A warm welcome to Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM

We look forward to welcoming Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM to our parishes. Fr Richard's first Sunday Masses in our parishes will be on the weekend 16th/17th August. Refreshments will be available and you may meet Fr Richard informally after the vigil Mass in Holy Cross and after the 11:00am Mass at Ss Philip and James.

Some changes in our Liturgical activities:

Starting from September, we plan to make adjustments to the times we celebrate weekday Masses. ***Weekend Masses will remain the same for the time being.***

We are asking for your input and suggestions.

- Weekday Masses will begin at **10:00am** from **Monday to Saturday**
- Lauds (morning prayer) will be said before Mass from **9:40am in Holy Cross Church on Tuesdays** after which Mass begins. After Mass, tea/coffee will be available in the hall.
- Lauds (morning prayer) will be said before Mass from **9:40am at Ss Philip and James on Thursdays** after which Mass begins. Again, after Mass, tea/coffee will be available in the hall.
- We plan to introduce evening Mass (targeting mainly working parishioners) at **7:00pm**.
- Vespers (evening prayer) will be said before Mass from **6:40pm on Thursdays in Holy Cross Church**.
- Vespers (evening prayer) will be said before Mass from **6:40pm on Fridays in Ss Philip and James Church**.

There is a sheet in each Narthex. ***Please let us know your opinion*** by ticking the box indicating whether you would like the evening Mass or not.

See previous newsletter for details of the followings:

CASPAR update of Catholic organisations in our parishes

Life in the Spirit meets monthly on the **second Tuesday of the month** at 7:00pm for prayer, scripture and reflection.

Youth 2000 Summer Festival 2025 in the grounds of Ampleforth College, Friday, 22nd to Monday, 25th August.
youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 1st Sept.

Canonisation of **Blessed Carlo Acutis** and **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**, on Sunday, 7th September.

Youth Group commences, Friday, 12th September at 6:30pm

Northampton Diocesan Pilgrimage to France - 2025

Paray-le-Monial • Cluny • Taizé

from Sunday, 19th - Friday, 24th October

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

The online **Rosary Group** meets from 8:00am to 8:20am weekdays on Zoom. ID: 833 1504 6319 Password: Rosary

The **Rosary and Divine Mercy Group** meets in SsP&J each Monday at 1:45pm. Divine Chaplet, Rosary, cup of tea.

Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James Repositories

The Repositories are open before and after their respective Masses on Sundays.

The **Bethlehem Nativity Group**, a missionary group from Bethlehem in the Holy Land, will visit us this weekend, 2nd/3rd August. Any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated.

Hospital Chaplaincy

If you know of a parishioner who is in hospital and who 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 when he returns from holibobs.

The Assisted Suicide Bill

On the 20th June, by a narrow margin, the House of Commons voted to approve the **Third Reading of the Terminally Ill (Adults) End of Life Bill** to open the door to euthanasia in the guise of medically-assisted suicide. The passage of this legislation would constitute one of the greatest changes to society in our history and a seismic shift from its Christian foundations. As this Private Member's Bill has now moved to the House of Lords, the level of concern expressed in the aftermath of the Commons vote regarding the safety of its provisions, lack of adequate scrutiny and even of time given to its debate together with the narrowness of its majority offers some hope that this legislation will be reassessed.

It will be important to remind everyone discouraged by these events that the fight against euthanasia is not over, despite the outcome of the vote on 20th June. We hope and pray the dangers of medically-assisted suicide will be quickly recognised and we cannot doubt our witness to the sanctity of human life, especially in the care of the sick and aged, is needed more than ever.



St Vincent's

Together, we can make a difference

Closed for the Summer break

Holy Cross Church, 355 Goldington Road
Bedford MK41 0DP