

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

Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year C; Weekday: Year 1; Psalter 3  
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	9 Aug	<b>Vigil of the Nineteenth Sunday</b>
5:30pm	HC	<b>Vigil Mass:</b> Tom Treacy, RIP
Sun	10 Aug	<b>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
9:00am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> Anne and Gerry Maxwell, RIP
11:00am	PJ	<b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro Populo</i>
Mon	11 Aug	<b>St Clare, Virgin - Memorial</b>
		No liturgy
Tue	12 Aug	<b>Feria</b>
10:15am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> Ken Blackburn, RIP - 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary
Wed	13 Aug	<b>Feria</b>
10:15am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> Bridie Joyce, healing <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
Thu	14 Aug	<b>St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest &amp; Martyr - Mem</b>
10:15am	PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Mari, Nikoli, Mohmoud, Volodymyr, Tamin, Salman, Zayed, Ahmed and Abdul - healing
7:00pm	PJ	<b>Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro Populo</i>
Fri	15 Aug	<b>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
		<b>Holy Day of Obligation</b> - no Friday abstinence
10:15am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> Jeff, Lauren, Anna, Donald, Susie, Mia, Dan, Monika, Margarita and families - healing
Sat	16 Aug	<b>Memorial of Our Blessed Lady</b>
10:15am	PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Joe, Sofia, Albert, Silvia, Vladimir, Charles, Edward, Willen, Mary and Pete - healing <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:30am</i>
5:30pm	HC	<b>Vigil Mass:</b> Stella Good - to thank everyone who prayed for her
Sun	17 Aug	<b>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
9:00am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro Populo</i>
11:00am	PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Miriam Winjika - 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage

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 SsP&J.

Names of the Confirmandi are: **Leo, Zara, Lily, Ava, Amber, Tania, Tyler, Natalia, Wojtek, Naomi, James, Stephen, Ndidiamaka, Afonso, Gonçalo, Luca, Callan, Kian and Agata**

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, [parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org](mailto: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.

Bedfordshire Pastoral Area Jubilee Pilgrimage

This Jubilee Pilgrimage is on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> October and it has been agreed that **parishes will arrange their own transport** to the Pilgrimage center at St Joseph's. Our united parish will set off from Holy Cross, Bedford at **8:45am** for a walk to St Joseph's. Everyone to arrive at St Joseph's at 10:00am. Then: **Rosary** 10:20am, **Mass** 10:45am, **Fatima devotions, Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** until 12:30pm. See the poster on the back page.

You may make donations in the same way as if using the **DONA** machines in the narthexes of our churches.

Holy Cross



Ss Philip and James



Diary for our community

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>
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept @ 6:30pm	<b>Youth Group in HC</b>

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

**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, and on our website. To receive our newsletter electronically, please register with CASPAR, either by QR code or by [hyperlink](#) →, and tick the relevant box.

Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; [deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org)

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walking-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; [deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org](mailto: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](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/text: 07986 357 320; email: [charlie.stallard@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.stallard@gmail.com)



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



Ss Philip and James, Bedford  
[www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971](http://www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971)

(Holy Cross:

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

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



# The North Bedford Catholic Community Pray and Play Summer Camp 2025







We give thanks to God for the wonderful **Pray and Play Summer Camp** which recently took place at the Holy Cross Church. A happy and blessed time was had by all especially at the **Family Fun Day** on the last day of the camp. During the week the children learned about and daily prayed **The Luminous Mysteries**, and they also attended **Mass and Adoration**. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** was also available for our older children. The **Apparition and Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe** was the main theme of the week's learning, crafts, games and activities culminating with a show consisting of acting, singing and dancing performed by all the children on the **Family Fun Day**. For the smooth running and outstanding success of the week, we especially thank **Clare Connolly** and her team of volunteer helpers: **Anna, Charlene, Christine, Judy, Luke, Louise, Maria, Onyii, Pat**. We also thank our Young Leaders **Melanie, Nathaniel, Naomi and Ruby** for being such excellent role models to our younger parishioners, and also for their enthusiasm, time and commitment during the week and especially for leading the outdoor games. Thank you to **Fr Alex** for his support, to **Kathy** for the delicious and nourishing snacks she provided, to **Sheila** behind the scenes in the Office, and to **Joan** for her teaching on the *Apparition and the Catechism of the Catholic Church* during the week. Grateful thanks also to **The Bedford Guardians of the Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe** and to the **Bedford Catenians** for their kind and generous donations towards this year's Summer Camp expenses.





# 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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:



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, 22<sup>nd</sup> to Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August.  
[youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025](https://youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025)

**World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.

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

**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>

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.

**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.

Come and join the Bedfordshire  
Pastoral Area

**Jubilee Pilgrimage**  
Walking to the Jubilee Holy  
Door at the Holy Child and St  
Joseph Church Bedford  
This will lead you to a  
Jubilee Indulgence



**Saturday 4th October 2025**

Choose from the following meeting points  
8.45 am at Christ the King Church, Bedford  
8.45 am at Holy Cross Church, Bedford  
9.40 am at the "Faces" statue, Silver St, Bedford



10 am arrive Holy Child & Saint Joseph Church  
10.20 Rosary  
10.45 Holy Mass followed by:  
Fatima devotions, confessions & adoration

## 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 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Thank you from The Bethlehem Nativity Group

We thank you for allowing our group to come to your parishes to sell the olive wood religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families. We raised the sum of £5102.00 from the sales. Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land. Thank you very much and be sure that you are always in our prayers.

If anyone has missed the carvings on display, you may place an order online from them at [www.tbng.co.uk](http://www.tbng.co.uk)

## Stop assisted suicide - action needed

The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September. **Right To Life UK** has launched an EasyAction tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill.

Please visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers) to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds.



**Food Bank.** Items we need are: Long Life Fruit Juice, Long Life Sponge Pudding, Tinned Meat, Tinned Tuna, Jars of Coffee, Bars of Chocolate, and Biscuits. Collecting boxes in each parish and at SsP&J these boxes are in the parish room.



**St Vincent's**

**Together, we can make a difference**  
**1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday**  
Holy Cross Church, 355 Goldington Road  
Bedford MK41 0DP