

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

Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time	
Sunday Mass Cycle: Year C; Weekday: Year 1; Psalter 4	
The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live	
HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James	
Sat 16 Aug	Vigil of the Twentieth Sunday
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Stella Good - to thank everyone who prayed for her
Sun 17 Aug	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro Populo</i>
11:00am PJ	Mass: Miriam Winjika - 3 rd birthday
Mon 18 Aug	Feria No liturgy
Tue 19 Aug	Feria
10:15am HC	Mass: Jean Petts, RIP
Wed 20 Aug	St Bernard, Abbot and Doctor - Memorial
10:15am HC	Mass: Tim Healy, RIP - anniversary Noel Whitworth, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
Thu 21 Aug	St Pope Pius X, Pope - Memorial
10:15am PJ	Mass: Fr Liam Castle - intention
Fri 22 Aug	Our Lady, Mother and Queen - Memorial
10:15am HC	Mass: Mathai Kaichiramattathil, RIP - anniv
Sat 23 Aug	Memorial of Our Blessed Lady
10:15am PJ	Mass: Basil Hanna, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:30am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Elena Fulco, RIP
Sun 24 Aug	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am HC	Mass: Alan White, RIP
11:00am PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro Populo</i>
1:00pm PJ	Baptism: Sophia McKenzie Celebrant: Deacon Crispin Walkling-Lea
NB: We seek to open the Church thirty minutes before any Mass or liturgy	

Responsorial Psalm:
Lord, make haste to help me!

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.

Bishop David will celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for our children, Thursday, 11th September, 7:00pm in SsP&J. Pray for our Confirmandi: **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 and is open to people of different faith backgrounds to become full members of the Catholic church. We begin September, and run sessions of study and prayer. Email the parish office, 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.

Welcome Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM
Fr Richard will concelebrate with Fr Alex in all the Sunday Masses in our parishes this weekend 16th/17th August. Come and meet Fr Richard after the vigil Mass in Holy Cross and the 11:00am Mass at Ss Philip and James.

An Evening of Melody
Our united parish is planning an evening of music and songs of joy. It's going to be a happy evening filled with melodious songs and hymns from our **united parish choir, SsP&J African Singers, children gospel choir and the Tansian choir from London**. The evening is in Holy Cross Church on 20th September and will begin at 7:00pm, immediately after Saturday vigil Mass. There will be refreshments during the intervals. You are all invited.

Fr Alex and Fr Richard would like to congratulate **Ben** from the **9am HC choir** on his 50th birthday. Happy Birthday Ben.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr Derek Laverty SS CC, RIP** who died peacefully in Dublin on 13th August.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Angelia Valerio, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be held in Holy Cross church on Friday, 12th September at 1:00pm.

Diary for our community	
7 th Sept @ 9am & 11am	Children's liturgy returns
11 th Sept @ 7:00pm	Confirmation in SsP&J
12 th Sept @ 6:30pm	Youth Group in Holy Cross
20 th Sept @ 7:00pm	Musical evening in Holy Cross

Our Parish Priest is Fr Alexander Ibe, SMMM Email: fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org
Our Assistant Priest is Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM Email: frrichard.onuoha@northamptondiocese.org
Tel: (01234) 352607 The Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX
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. (Holy Cross: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969
Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org (Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971
Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walkling-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org
Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC; Shirley Whiterod 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**
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 (Tuesdays: 11.15am - 3:15pm) 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



First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation Programme AD 2025 - 2026

The **North Bedford Catholic Community** provides a united sacramental programme for the combined parishes of The Holy Cross and Saints Philip and James. This is a very important time for the parents and all the family members. It will be a time of growth in your child's faith, and in your own faith as you are expected to play an active and leading role in helping your child through every step of the way.

The parish will assist you by providing classes for your child and sessions to aid you in helping your child, but you must commit wholeheartedly to this time of preparation and participate weekly in Sunday mass and attend all the classes on the programme with your child.

Dates for the Sacramental preparation Programme:

- Saturday, 20th September 2025
- Saturday, 18th October 2025
- Saturday, 8th November 2025
- Saturday, 22nd November 2025
- Saturday, 13th December 2025
- Saturday, 10th January 2026
- Saturday, 24th January 2026
- Saturday, 7th February 2026
- Saturday, 7th March 2026
- Saturday 21st March 2026
- Saturday, 18th April 2026
- Saturday, 2nd May 2026

Enrolment Masses: Saturday, 11th and Sunday, 12th October
Advent giving party: Sunday, 30th November – Save the date
First Reconciliation: Saturday, 28th March 2026

Celebration of First Holy Communion Masses: Corpus Christi on Saturday, 6th and Sunday, 7th June 2026

Thanksgiving and celebration Mass: Saturday, 27th June
If you would like to enrol your child onto the **Sacramental Preparation Programme AD 2025 - 2026**, enrolment forms are available in the narthex of both churches or online at: northbedfordcatholics.org.uk


Completed and signed enrolment forms must be returned with your child's **original Baptism certificate** to Sheila Allen, Parish Secretary, parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or by post. The **deadline** for returning enrolment forms and Baptism certificates is **Sunday, 7th September 2025**. Further details of the programme will be discussed at the first meeting with parents and children, which will be held on **Wednesday, 17th September** in Saints Philip and James Church at 6:15pm.

Fr Alex, Fr Richard, Deacon Crispin, Deacon Tony and our sacramental team look forward to getting to know you and your family better prior to the start of **Sacramental Preparation**.


In consultation with the diocese, the **new weekday Mass times** will no longer take effect from September. We look forward to starting the new weekday Mass times from November.

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



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

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:



Altar Servers Rehearsal

There will be training for all the Altar Servers (old and new) on Tuesday, 2nd September at 6:00 pm in Ss Philip and James Church.