

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

Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

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

The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live

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

Sat 23 Aug	Vigil of the Twenty-First Sunday
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
Mon 25 Aug	Feria No liturgy
Tue 26 Aug	Feria
10:15am HC	Mass: Jean Petts, RIP
Wed 27 Aug	St Monica (Mother of St Augustine of Hippo) - Memorial
10:15am HC	Mass: Jackie Marsh, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
Thu 28 Aug	St Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Doctor - Memorial
10:15am PJ	Mass: Assumpta - birthday
Fri 29 Aug	The Beheading of St John the Baptist - Mem
10:15am HC	Mass: Paul Cox - healing
Sat 30 Aug	Memorial of Our Blessed Lady
10:15am PJ	Mass: Donie O'Brien, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:30am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: <i>Missa pro Populo</i>
Sun 31 Aug	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am HC	Mass: Raj Sohun, RIP - 35 th Anniversary
11:00am PJ	Mass: Eddie Hughes, RIP

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

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. Beginning in September, we 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.

Altar Servers Rehearsal

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

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 and Gospel Choir and the Tansi Choir from London. The evening is in Holy Cross Church on Saturday, 20th September and will begin at 7:00pm, immediately after the vigil Mass. There will be refreshments during the intervals and you are all invited.

Holy Cross parish office is closed on Monday, 25th August. It is a bank holiday and Shiela will be on annual leave.

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.

Children's Liturgies at HC and SsP&J recommence on Sunday, 7th September.

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
4 th Oct @ 10:00am	Jubilee Pilgrimage to St Joseph's

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

The Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX Tel: (01234) 352607

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.walklinglea@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](#)

Parish Secretary HC, Sheila Allen (Thursday only this week: 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



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:



**See previous newsletter
for details of the following:**

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.

**World Day of Prayer for the Care of
Creation**, Monday, 1st September.

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

**Northampton Diocesan
Pilgrimage to France - 2025**

Paray-le-Monial • Cluny • Taizé
from Sunday, 19th - Friday, 24th October
<https://www.jcjourneys.com/northampton-burgundy>

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.

**See dates for the Sacramental preparation Programme and
significant events on last week's newsletter.**

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,
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 Ss Philip & James at 6:15pm.

Stop assisted suicide - action needed

The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its
Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday, 12th
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 to ask Peers to
oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds.

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



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.

Lost Property - Wedding Ring

If you have lost a wedding ring at Holy Cross Church, please
contact the HC parish secretary.

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.

Education Sunday

Nationally, **Education Sunday** is usually celebrated at the
beginning of September. However, many schools in our
diocese have found this too early in the term to prepare
something meaningful.

With Bishop David's approval, Northampton Diocese will
therefore celebrate **Education Sunday** on 5th October. To
mark the occasion, the Diocesan Schools' Mass will take
place on Friday, 10th October at 11:00am in **St Mary's
Church, Dunstable**.

Mass for Marriage and Family Life

Bishop David will celebrate the Annual **Mass for Marriage
and Family Life** on Saturday, 6th September at 12:00 noon in
Northampton Cathedral. All are welcome.

If you are celebrating a special anniversary this year, please
contact Sam at mfl@northamptondiocese.org or visit:
<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/celebration-marriage-and-family-life/>



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