

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-Second 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	30 Aug	Vigil of the Twenty-Second Sunday
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
Mon	1 Sep	Feria No liturgy
Tue	2 Sep	Feria
10:15am	HC	Mass: Jeanette Merritt - healing
Wed	3 Sep	St Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor - Memorial
10:15am	HC	Mass: Lorraine Norris - healing <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
Thu	4 Sep	Feria
10:15am	PJ	Mass: Assumpta and family - thanksgiving
Fri	5 Sep	Feria
10:15am	HC	Mass: Fr Derek Laverty, RIP - SVP
Sat	6 Sep	Memorial of Our Blessed Lady
10:15am	PJ	Mass: Donnie O'Brien, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:30am</i>
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Norman Arnold, RIP
Sun	7 Sep	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	HC	Mass: Christopher Gordon Styles, RIP - 1 st anniversary
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Mike O'Hara, RIP

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

Responsorial Psalm:

In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

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.

Children's Liturgies commence next Sunday, 7th September.

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.

The parish will assist you by providing classes for your child with sessions to aid you in helping them, 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 the newsletter dated 17th August.

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 **next Sunday, 7th September**. 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.

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.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Mike O'Hara, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be in Norse Road Crematorium on Thursday, 18th September at 4:00pm.

And please pray for the repose of **Phil Raiswell, RIP**, who died last week in Bedford Hospital after a short illness. Please, pray for all who grieve at this time especially his family. May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

Diary for our community

11th Sept @ 7:00pm
12th Sept @ 6:30pm
20th Sept @ 7:00pm
4th Oct @ 10:00am

Confirmation in SsP&J
Youth Group in Holy Cross
Musical evening in Holy Cross
Jubilee Pilgrimage to St Joseph's
Details in the poster overleaf

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

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

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

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walkling-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](#)

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



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.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
(RCIA)** - 353116 or 352607 to register.

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**, this Monday, 1st September.

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

Stop assisted suicide - action needed

Second Reading in the House of Lords on
Friday, 12th September.

Pope's Prayer Intention – September 2025

For our relationship with all of creation.

*Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might
experience our interdependence with all creatures who are
loved by God and worthy of love and respect.*

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**

Altar Servers Rehearsal

There will be training for all the Altar Servers (old and new)
this Tuesday, 2nd September at 6:00pm in SsP&J.

Monday morning Mass

From Monday, 8th September, the *Feast of the Nativity of
the Blessed Virgin Mary*, **Monday morning Mass** will
resume in Ss Philip and James at 10:15am.

Lost Property - Wedding Ring

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

An Evening of Music and Songs of Joy

We are planning an evening of **music and songs of joy**. It
will be a happy evening filled with 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. There
will be refreshments immediately after the vigil Mass and
the concert will begin at 7:00pm. Tickets are available from
this weekend: Adults £5, young people ages 5-18, £2.50 and
under 5's free.

There are donation boxes available on the night on behalf of
the new sanctuary carpet for Ss Philip and James church.

Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James Repositories

The two Repositories are open before and after their
respective Sunday Masses.

**Online Webinar – 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si'
Sustaining the Impact**

This Wednesday, 3rd September, at 7:00pm, the Catholic
Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW), in
partnership with CAFOD, will host a free online webinar
titled **"Sustaining the Impact"** to mark the 10th anniversary
of Pope Francis' encyclical **Laudato Si'**.

Speakers include: Philip Booth (CBCEW), Christine Allen
(CAFOD), Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Hannah Woolley
(Church of England EIAG), Liga Pare (CBCEW)

Register here: bigmarker.com/cafod/LaudatoSi10

Mass for Marriage and Family Life

Bishop David will celebrate the Annual **Mass for Marriage
and Family Life** this 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

Education Sunday: With Bishop David's approval,
Northampton Diocese celebrates **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*.

The Diocese of Northampton is delighted to announce the
launch of the **Bethsaida Leadership Course**, a year-long
programme designed to form leaders for a missionary
Church. Are you already serving in your parish, or do people
naturally look to you for guidance? Do you feel called to
grow in confidence and take a more active role in your
parish or pastoral area?

The **Bethsaida Leadership Course** offers the opportunity to
deepen your faith, strengthen your leadership skills, and
learn how to serve with your eyes fixed on Christ. Rooted in
prayer and practical training, this course will help you grow
as one of the living stones (1 Peter 2:5), building up the
Church today. To find out more or to apply, please visit:

northamptondiocese.org/catholic-leadership

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



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

