

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 September is dedicated to the Our Lady of Sorrows/October to the Holy Rosary

Twenty-Sixth 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	27 Sep	Vigil of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Sun	28 Sep	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
		St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Appeal
9:00am	HC	Mass: Max's 13th birthday intention
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Gary Ball, RIP
Mon	29 Sep	Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels - feast
10:15am	PJ	Mass: Br John Mayhead Silver Jubilee of ordination
Tue	30 Sep	St Jerome, Priest and Doctor - Memorial
10:15am	HC	Mass: Bryan Loveday, RIP
Wed	1 Oct	St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor - Memorial
10:15am	HC	Mass: Norma Loban, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
Thu	2 Oct	The Holy Guardian Angels - Memorial
10:15am	PJ	Mass: Dan Neylon, RIP
Fri	3 Oct	Feria
10:15am	HC	Mass: Anna, Susie, Anton, John, Leonov, Marcos and Charles - healing
Sat	4 Oct	St Francis of Assisi - Memorial
10:15am	PJ	No liturgy
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Renato Thomas, RIP
Sun	5 Oct	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
		Catholic Education Service
9:00am	HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Alice Greenfield, RIP - Anniversary

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

Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Wednesdays **ONLY**, in HC after Mass until 11:15am.

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul, give praise to the Lord.



Photo by Serge Taveymans on Unsplash

Candidates for 2026 Confirmation

Our joint parishes of Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James have started to enroll candidates for confirmation classes. As a community, we grow in awareness of how much we are loved by God, explore our faith and different ways to pray. Young people should ordinarily be in **academic year 9 and above** at the commencement of the course. Applications from young people of other ages will be considered. Application forms are available in the narthexes of both churches and also online at the **NBCC website**. They may be accessed via the **2026 Confirmation Programme** page under the tab **'Family & Youth Ministry'**. Please submit your application to the parish office at Holy Cross church. For further information, you may contact the parish office or **Deacon Crispin**. The closing date is Sunday, 12th October.

October, Month of the Rosary

During the month of October, **traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary**, Pope Leo XIV has called on Catholics around the world to pray the Rosary daily, uniting in prayer for peace in war-torn regions. The Pope's appeal invites and encourages the faithful to join in this powerful prayer of intercession. We are encouraged to join our collective praying of the Rosaries before Mass on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:45am in HC and SsP&J.

Fr Alex will be away this week for a few days in Austria for the annual **Okigwe priests and religious conference**.

There will be a retiring collection for the **Catholic Education Service** next weekend, 4th/5th October.

Our **Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMoHC)** are having a retreat on **Saturday, 18th October** in SsP&J church. The retreat begins with 10:15 Mass. After Mass there is Exposition, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a talk. The retreat concludes with Benediction.

Diary for our community

4 th Oct @ 10:00am	Jubilee Pilgrimage to St Joseph's
5 th Oct @ 3:00pm	Youth Mass in Christ the King's
10 th Oct @ 6:30pm	Youth Group in Holy Cross
14 th Oct @ 6:00pm	Living Water prayer group in HC
18 th Oct @ 10:00am	EMoHC Retreat at SsP&J

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 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**

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



Holy Cross, Bedford
www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969



Ss Philip and James, Bedford
www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971

Come and join the **Bedfordshire Pastoral Area Jubilee Pilgrimage**
Walking to the Holy Child and St Joseph church
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

YOUTH MASS!
Calling everyone aged 11-25
Christ the King, Bedford
October | 05 | 2025 | 3pm

Join us for an incredible youth Mass this October with Bishop David! Come get involved in the Mass and meet with Jesus, along with other teens & young adults from the area. After Mass there will be time to hang out & get to know the Bishop.

To find out more, contact us at:
NYMO.admin@northamptondiocese.com

NYMO

Youth Mass – 5th October at 3:00pm
Calling All Young People!

NYMO invites all young people to be part of a Youth Mass filled with joy, faith, and community. This is a chance to celebrate together, connect with others, and be inspired as you worship together.

All are welcome - bring a friend and experience an unforgettable afternoon of prayer and fellowship.

Open to everyone aged 11 - 25 years.

For more information:

holly.cook@northamptondiocese.org

Catechist Formation

Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis

Do you feel called to share the gift of faith?

The Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis (Level

One) offers formation for new and experienced catechists through a blend of online and in-person sessions.

Zoom dates: 14th, 21st October; 4th, 11th and 18th November

In-person dates: Saturday, 22nd November, in St Francis and St Therese RC Church, Northampton

Cost: No fixed fee (but donations are always welcome)

More details and registration available here:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/bishops-certificate-autumn25/>

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Fr Derek Lavery SS.CC., RIP**, whose memorial Mass will be in Christ the King church this Friday, 3rd October at 7:00pm.

Fr Derek was one of the parish priests at Holy Cross church between 1991-1997. **Fr Chris McAneny** and **Fr Fergal Maguire** will concelebrate.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Liam Walsh, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will take place in Ss Philip and James church on Wednesday, 8th October at 1:30pm.

May his gentle soul rest in peace, Amen.

And please pray for the repose of the soul of **Kathleen Teresa O'Brien, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will take place in Holy Cross church on Wednesday, 15th October at 12:30pm.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Bridget Zielinski, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy takes place in Holy Cross church on Thursday, 16th October at 10:30am.

And please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Jenny Walsh, RIP**, who died recently. We pray for God's consolation on her family and friends.

May her gentle soul rest in peace, Amen.

Holy Cross Parish office will be closed this Monday, 29th September. If you have any urgent parish business, please contact Maria Quinlan, SsP&J 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.

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



Come and join the **Bedfordshire Pastoral Area Jubilee Pilgrimage** to St Joseph's Church this Saturday, 4th October.

We start the march to St Joseph's from Holy Cross church at **8:45am** to arrive before 10:00am for 10:20am with Rosary, Holy Mass and the Sacrament of confession.

[NB] There is **NO MASS** in SsP&J this Saturday morning.

A sincere **'Thank You'** to everyone who participated in the Evening of Music and Songs of Joy last Saturday. It was indeed a happy evening filled with songs of Joy and hymns from our united parish choir, SsP&J African Singers, our children and the Gospel Choir, and the Tansi Choir.

Music has been shown to have a positive effect on our wellbeing, even on mental health. Studies show that music therapy can alleviate conditions such as anxiety, depression and even dementia. Engaging with music can enhance mood, reduce stress and promote relaxation, making it a powerful tool for emotional healing. It also enhances communal bonds during gatherings and spiritual worship. Thanks go to Kathy and all those who helped with refreshments and the selling of tickets.

CAFOD Family Fast Day is this Friday, 3rd October

Retiring collection will be the weekend 10th/11th October

This Family Fast Day, **CAFOD** invites us to stand in solidarity with families affected by climate change and conflict. In Ethiopia, with CAFOD's support, communities now have safe water close to home. Across the world, including in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan, CAFOD's partners bring food, water, shelter, and medical care to those most in need. Please support this life-saving work through your prayers and generosity. You may donate at: cafod.org.uk/envelope or by telephone: 0303 303 3030.

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 Sunday Mass.

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

