

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 October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary

Twenty-Eighth 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	11 Oct	Vigil of the Twenty-Eighth Sunday
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Kathleen Passmore, RIP - first anniversary (SVP)
Sun	12 Oct	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time CAFOD Family Fast Day
9:00am	HC	Mass: Private intention
11:00am	PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Mon	13 Oct	Feria
10:15am	PJ	Mass: Monika, Dmitry, Donald, Vladimir, Fr Adrian Yuri, family - intention
Tue	14 Oct	Feria
10:15am	HC	Mass: Michael and James Sathianathan - healing
Wed	15 Oct	St Teresa of Avila, Virgin and Doctor - Mem
10:15am	HC	Mass: Joanna Russell, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
Thu	16 Oct	Feria
10:15am	PJ	Mass: Liam Walsh, RIP
Fri	17 Oct	St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr - Memorial
10:15am	HC	Mass: Charles Wells, RIP
Sat	18 Oct	St Luke, Evangelist - Feast
10:15am	PJ	Mass: Shaun McDonald, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:30am</i>
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Celia Chan, RIP
Sun	19 Oct	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time World Mission Sunday - Missio
9:00am	HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Hikmat Tabchi, RIP

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

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Candidates for First Holy Communion

The Enrolment Rite for the **First Holy Communion** candidates takes place this weekend in all Masses. In past years we asked parishioners to support our children making this bold movement in their spiritual growth with prayers, and their prayers bore significant fruits. We are again asking parishioners to consider being **Prayer Sponsors** this year. This entails a promise to pray for named candidates throughout the programme. Please email **Clare Connolly** at catechist.holycross@northamptondiocese.org if you are able to fulfill this very important ministry.

As we continue to experience tremendous growth in the number of **First Holy Communion candidates**, we ask more parishioners to volunteer to train as catechists who will go on to help teach and support our children as they prepare to receive Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The parish will cover the cost of the catechist training courses.

Candidates for 2026 Confirmation

The closing date to enroll candidates for confirmation classes is this Sunday, 12th October.

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

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

And pray also for the repose of the soul of **Jenny Walsh, RIP**. There will be a vigil service at 4:00pm on Sunday and her funeral liturgy will be on Monday, 20th October at 11:30am, all in Ss Philip and James church.

Eucharistic Adoration and the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is on Wednesdays in HC after Mass until 11:15am and on the Saturday in SsP&J after Mass until 11:30am.

Diary for our community

14th Oct@ 6:00pm
7:00pm
18th Oct@ 10:00am
1st Nov @ 3:00pm

**Gospel choir followed by:
Living Water prayer group in HC
EMoHC Retreat at SsP&J
All Saints' Day Party!**
(see the poster on the back page)

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.

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

(Holy Cross: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walking-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org

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

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



ALL SAINTS DAY!

Lets celebrate the light!

Holy Cross Church

Party: 3pm

Mass: 5:30pm

Saturday 1st November 2025

Bring a
Christian carved
pumpkin

Dress up as
your favourite
Saint

Food, music, crafts, games and more!

Limited spaces!

FREE!

ALL
AGES!

please sign up by emailing Clare on

catechist.holycross@northamptondiocese.org



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.

Dilexi te

The Holy See Press Office has announced that Pope Leo XIV signed his first Apostolic Exhortation **Dilexi te** on Saturday, 4th October, the **Feast of St Francis of Assisi**, in the private library of the Apostolic Palace.

This document was formally presented on Thursday, 9th October, the Feast of Saint John Henry Newman, at 11:30am in the Holy See Press Office.

Saint John Henry Newman

Pope Leo has announced that he will declare **Saint John Henry Newman** a Doctor of the Church on Saturday, 1st November.

The Annual Shoebox Appeal



Operation Christmas Child UK or **the Shoebox Appeal** starts this week. There are leaflets available at Mass explaining what you can and cannot put in the boxes.

Remember, your shoebox, filled with presents for a child in a second/third world country, may well be the only gift they receive this Christmas. You may donate a box online for £25 if you Google '**Operation Christmas Child UK**'. Boxes must be returned to the church by 8th/9th November at the latest. Thank you for supporting this very worthwhile charity.

Gift Aid Awareness

Many parishioners give faithfully through the offertory collection each week and we thank you for doing so. Did you know, if you are a **UK taxpayer**, your gift could be worth 25% more at no extra cost to you? Through **Gift Aid**, a donation of £10 becomes £12.50 - we can even reclaim up to four years of past donations. Signing-up is simple, confidential, and makes a big difference to parish life. Find out more at: <https://northamptondiocese.org/gift-aid/>

Pastoral visit/Communion to the sick

If you know of anyone who is unwell and longing for a visit with communion and/or anointing, please contact the parish office, 01234 353116, with the person's name, address and phone number, or contact the presbytery 01234 352607. Our clergy or *Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion* will arrange a visit.

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.

Altar Servers Training

All altar servers are encouraged to attend, with a parent/guardian, the training session scheduled to take place in **Ss Philip and James church at 12:00pm on Saturday, 25th October**. I believe Saturday afternoon suits most altar servers. Please try to attend.

There is a retiring collection for **CAFOD Family Fast Day** this weekend and **World Mission Sunday, Missio** next weekend.

Our **Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMoHC)** are having a retreat on **Saturday, 18th October** in Ss Philip and James church. The retreat opens with 10:15am Mass. After Mass is Exposition, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a brief talk. The retreat concludes with Benediction.

Jubilee Pilgrimage

A big thank you to all the parishioners who shared the **Bedfordshire Pastoral Area Jubilee Pilgrimage** last week, on Saturday, to St Joseph's church.

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



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

