



Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year C ; Weekday: Year 1; Psalter 2

The live-stream from HC is at [www.mcn.live](http://www.mcn.live)

HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James; STM - St Thomas More

|            |                                                                                                                             |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 22 Nov | <b>Vigil of Christ the King</b>                                                                                             |
| 5:30pm HC  | <b>Vigil Mass:</b> Rory Connolly, RIP - 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary                                                         |
| Sun 23 Nov | <b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b>                                                                          |
|            | <b>Catholic Youth Services</b>                                                                                              |
| 9:00am HC  | <b>Mass:</b> Michele Fuccillo, RIP                                                                                          |
| 11:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro populo</i>                                                                                        |
| Mon 24 Nov | <b>Ss Andrew Dŭng-Lac, Priest and his Companions, Martyrs - Memorial</b>                                                    |
| 10:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> Stephen Toner, RIP                                                                                             |
| Tue 25 Nov | <b>Feria</b>                                                                                                                |
| 9:40am HC  | <b>Lauds</b> (Morning Prayer)                                                                                               |
| 10:00am HC | <b>Mass:</b> Rory Connolly, RIP - 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary                                                               |
| Wed 26 Nov | <b>Feria</b>                                                                                                                |
| 10:00am HC | <b>Mass:</b> Mike O'Hara, RIP<br><i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am</i> |
| Thu 27 Nov | <b>Feria</b>                                                                                                                |
| 8:20am STM | <b>Mass:</b> All staff and students                                                                                         |
| 9:40am PJ  | <b>Lauds</b> (Morning Prayer)                                                                                               |
| 10:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> Carli and Fulco family, RIP                                                                                    |
| 7:00pm HC  | <b>Mass:</b> Trevor Poulter, RIP                                                                                            |
| Fri 28 Nov | <b>Feria</b>                                                                                                                |
| 10:00am HC | <b>Mass:</b> Charlie Kirk, RIP                                                                                              |
| 7:00pm PJ  | <b>Mass:</b> Lorraine Norris - healing                                                                                      |
| Sat 29 Nov | <b>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>                                                                                  |
| 10:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> Liam Walsh, RIP<br><i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>  |
| 5:30pm HC  | <b>Vigil Mass:</b> Michael Kenny, RIP                                                                                       |
| Sun 30 Nov | <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>                                                                                               |
| 9:00am HC  | <b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro populo</i>                                                                                        |
| 11:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> Lorraine Norris - healing                                                                                      |

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Advent Activities

Advent invites us into a deliberate slowing down, a short, sacred season of waiting, charged with hope. As we count down to the Nativity, these weeks give us space to prepare our hearts for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. This preparation involves spiritual reflection, prayers, and practical activities to create a meaningful lead-up to Christmas. We are encouraged to participate in **Advent Talks** organised every **Wednesday** during Advent to help us reflect on its core message. Talks will last for 45 minutes with reflections and discussions before concluding prayers. **See the poster on the back page.**

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December in HC at 6:00pm, followed by refreshments in the parish room.

**Advent Penitential Service** - with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December in HC from 7:00pm - 8:00pm, and Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> December in SsP&J from 11:00am - 12:00pm. Please, take this opportunity to 'prepare the way' spiritually as we commemorate the coming of Christ born in time to save mankind.

Advent Novena

The diocese is pleased to share the **Crown of Advent Novena**, a beautiful reflection based on the **O Antiphons**, created by parishioners of Our Lady of Walsingham Parish in Corby. You are warmly invited to sign up to receive the novena by email each day from Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December through to Christmas Day. This offers a simple yet profound way to prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord.

See: [northamptondiocese.org/advent-novena/](http://northamptondiocese.org/advent-novena/)

St John Rigby Primary school children

EYS and KS1 families from *St John Rigby school* will be joining us for the 11:00 am Mass on the **First Sunday of Advent**, 30<sup>th</sup> November and will participate during Mass and bringing the offertory gifts.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist (EMoHE)

This is to remind all EMoHE of the meeting on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December after 7:00 pm Mass in SsP&J.

Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

is on Wednesdays in HC after Mass until 11:00am and on the Saturday in SsP&J after Mass until 11:15am.

Our Parish Priest is Fr Alexander Ibe, SMMM

Email: [fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org)

Our Assistant Priest is Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM

Email: [frrichard.onuoha@northamptondiocese.org](mailto: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](http://www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969)

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

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

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walkling-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; [deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org)

Parish Secretary Ss P&J, Mariateresa Quinlan (Tuesdays: 11.15am - 3:15pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; [Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org](mailto: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](mailto:charlie.stallard@gmail.com)





North  
Bedford  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

# Advent TALKS

We are excited to announce we will be running a series of advent talks during December. The sessions will include prayer, a themed talk, reflection and discussion. Each will last 1 hour, all starting at 7pm.

**Talk 1: Advent Season - Wed 3rd Dec at HC**

**Talk 2: Preparing the way for the Incarnate Word - Wed 10th Dec at Ss P&J**

**Talk 3: The Incarnation of Jesus within the Womb of Mary - Wed 17th Dec at HC**

*All Welcome*



## Advent Bible Studies

Join **Mauro Iannicelli** for four engaging Bible studies on the Advent Sunday Gospels, exploring the readings in depth with thought-provoking insights and questions to enrich the celebration of Holy Mass. Sessions will take place on Wednesdays, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> December, 7:00 - 8:00pm, free of charge via LIVE YouTube. To register, visit: [comeandsee.org/advent-bible-studies](https://comeandsee.org/advent-bible-studies)

## North Bedford Churches Together (NBCT) Carol Singing

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for carol singing at Goldington Tesco to support Bedford Foodbank [trussell.org.uk/](https://trussell.org.uk/) and people experiencing homelessness through SMART [smartcjs.org.uk/](https://smartcjs.org.uk/)

- **Time and Place:** Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, between 6:00 - 8:00pm, in the sheltered area near the Tesco doors at Goldington (so no one will get too cold or wet)
- **Come and Go:** People are welcome to drop in at any time and stay for as long as they wish.
- **Musicians and Singers:** All are welcome! We have enjoyed a wide variety of instruments and voices in past years, with participants of all ages.

**SsP&J Repository** now has Christmas stock in with Advent Calendars, cards and other Christmas items.

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



See previous newsletter for details of the following:

**Diocesan Advent Retreat** - from Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> November  
*"Disrupted by Grace"*

**Baptism Course** with Deacon Tony - Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**Caritas Northampton's Love Christmas Campaign**

**SsP&J Welcoming Teams** - still in need of volunteers!

**For Candidates enrolled for First Holy Communion**, Prayer Sponsors still required - we need another 13.

**The Living Waters prayer group** meets monthly, on the **second Tuesday of the month** at 7:00pm for prayer, scripture and reflection in Holy Cross church.

The **NBCC Youth Group** meets monthly on the **second Friday of each month** at 6:30pm in Holy Cross hall.

## Safeguarding Sunday - 25<sup>th</sup> November

Safeguarding means protecting its children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse (both physical and spiritual) and neglect. Both Parishes have nominated Safeguarding Representatives (PSR) and contact details for **Shirley Whiterod** for HC and **Ann-Marie Blaney** for SsP&J are included in the newsletter each week. Our role entails the promotion of good and safe practices in all activities involving vulnerable people within our parishes or congregations, supported by the Church's national policies. We help to facilitate the safer recruitment of those working with children and vulnerable people, including the completion of the DBS disclosure process as well as acting as a point of contact for concerns to be shared and as a link between the Diocese and the parish. Further information on safeguarding and Diocese Safeguarding contacts are available in the narthex of both our churches. For further information on safeguarding within the church please see: [northamptondiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/What-is-safe-guarding-Jan-2022.pdf](https://northamptondiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/What-is-safe-guarding-Jan-2022.pdf)

## Christmas Fayre at Christ the King Parish Hall

Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1:00pm - 3:00pm.

Entry 50p, children go free. Refreshments, bottle stall, crafts, raffle, jumble and more.

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.

## Advent Giving Tree - 2025

During Advent, starting from next weekend, the SVP in NBCC will be appealing for items to help the homeless during Christmas.

There will be **Giving Trees** at the back of each church on which there will be gift tags with the details of the required gifts. If you wish to donate a gift, please take a tag from the tree then place the donated gift in the tub provided nearby. **Please do NOT wrap the items you donate.**

This year, we are also appealing for items for the people at **Yarl's Wood Detention Centre**. Thank you.

**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

