

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 November is dedicated to The Holy Souls/December to the Immaculate Conception **2025**

**First Week in Advent - Year A**

**Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A ; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 1**

**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 29 Nov	<b>Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent</b>
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
Mon 1 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
10:00am PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Nancy Gardiner, RIP - Anniversary
Tue 2 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
9:40am HC	<b>Lauds</b> (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	<b>Mass:</b> Maria Beasley-Suffolk - healing
Wed 3 Dec	<b>St Francis Xavier, Priest - Memorial</b>
10:00am HC	<b>Mass:</b> All the clergy <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am</i>
Thu 4 Dec	<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> Gary Stewart, RIP
Fri 5 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
10:00am HC	<b>Mass:</b> Dan Logan, RIP
7:00pm PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Dalton family, RIP
Sat 6 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
10:00am PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Stephen Toner, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm HC	<b>Vigil Mass:</b> Fr Derek Laverty, SS.CC, RIP
Sun 7 Dec	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
9:00am HC	<b>Mass:</b> Margaret Harrington, RIP - Anniversary
11:00am PJ	<b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro populo</i>

**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.

**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.



Winning drawing for the 2025 Nativity - Well done!

This weekend, we welcome the **EYS and KS1 families** from St John Rigby School to our parish Mass at 11:00am. They are invited to participate and bring up the offertory gifts. It is really nice to see them attend Masses on those important periods in the church year.

**Advent Reconciliation Service**

For Years 4, 5 and 6 at St John Rigby School an Advent Reconciliation Service will take place on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December** in the school hall from 1:10pm.

The **NBCC Youth Group** will meet for the Advent Reflection and Nativity celebration on **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm** in Holy Cross hall.

**Christmas Eve - Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

5:30pm HC	Carols
6:00pm HC	Family Mass
7:30pm SsP&J	Carols
8:00pm SsP&J	Mass

**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Christmas Day - Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

9:00am HC	Mass
11:00am SsP&J	Mass

**St Stephen's Day**

10:30am HC	Mass
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**Carols by Candlelight**

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

**Advent Penitential Services**

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December in HC from 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> December in SsP&J from 11:00am - 12:00pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Please, take this opportunity to 'prepare the way' spiritually as we commemorate the coming of Christ born in time to save mankind.

**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 Walking-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)**





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*





**“Pray and Play”** - creating Advent-candle wreaths for home. Lots of fun, creativity and singing. A great time was had by all!



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

UPDATE FOR BOTH PARISHES

Children's liturgy is available on Sundays at Holy Cross 9am Mass and SSPJ 11am Mass. We are excited to prepare and explore advent with the children

All children are welcome, children liturgy is aimed at children of age 3-7 years.

Children under 3 should remain in Mass or attend with an adult to supervise



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

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

**Advent Bible Studies** - Join **Mauro Iannicelli** for engaging Bible studies

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

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist (EMoHE)**  
Meeting this Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December after 7:00pm Mass in SsP&J.

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

### 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/)

### North Bedford Churches Together (NBCT) Carol Singing

- Time and Place:** Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, between 6:00 - 8:00pm
- Musicians and Singers:** All are welcome!

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.

The **Repositories** are open before and after their respective Masses on Sundays and they now have new Christmas stock in; with Advent Calendars, cards and other Christmas items.

### Hospital Chaplaincy and Residential Care

If you have any surplus **rosary beads**, please pass them on to Deacon Tony for his visiting. Many patients and residents take great solace in this item of religious devotion

If anyone would like to join the **Readers' Rota at Holy Cross** from January 2026, please contact: [martinclitheroe173@gmail.com](mailto:martinclitheroe173@gmail.com) by Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### Evening Mass at Holy Cross Church

After a one month trial, the evening Mass at Holy Cross church will be postponed till further notice through lack of attendance. We understand it gets very dark and cold which makes it difficult for parishioners to attend. It can be revisited in the summer.

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



### 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.


### Love Christmas 2025– Share the Joy, Spread the Light

This Advent, join **Caritas Northampton's Love Christmas Campaign** and help bring the true spirit of Christmas to those most in need across our diocese. Simply collect small gifts, such as toys, chocolates, warm clothing, or toiletries, which can be left at the church/presbytery for collection by Caritas. We will provide the bags and gift tags. **Please do not include non-gift items such as pasta, tinned food, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, etc. These will be gratefully accepted by your local Foodbank.** Let us fill our community with hope and compassion this Christmas.

Further information: [northamptondiocese.org/caritas/](http://northamptondiocese.org/caritas/)

### Advent Giving Tree - 2025

During Advent the SVP in NBCC are appealing for items to help the homeless during Christmas.



There are **Giving Trees** at the back of each church on which there are gift tags with the details of the required gift. 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