



Second Week in Advent - Year A

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A ; Weekday: Year 2; 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	6 Dec	<b>Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent</b>
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>
Mon	8 Dec	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the BVM</b>
10:00am	PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Ann and Anthony Byrne, RIP
Tue	9 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
9:40am	HC	<b>Lauds</b> (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> Jordan Peterson - healing
Wed	10 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
10:00am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> Byrne family, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am</i>
Thu	11 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> Harvey Papper, RIP
Fri	12 Dec	<b>Feria</b>
10:00am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> Eleanor Foley, RIP
7:00pm	PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Derek Storey, RIP
Sat	13 Dec	<b>St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr - Memorial</b>
10:00am	PJ	<b>Mass:</b> Ellen Toner, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm	HC	<b>Vigil Mass:</b> Alan McClelland, RIP
Sun	14 Dec	<b>Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday</b>
9:00am	HC	<b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro populo</i>
11:00am	PJ	<b>Mass:</b> John Joseph Corbett, RIP

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

Responsorial Psalm:

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever

**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.

Gaudete Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December

6:00pm HC **Carols by Candlelight**



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



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

Advent Penitential Services

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

With Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

With Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

This weekend we welcome **years three and four families from St John Rigby School** to Mass at 11:00am. They will participate and bring up the offertory gifts.

The **Christmas Offering Envelopes** will be available in the narthex of each church next weekend, 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December.

**St Thomas More Carol Service** will be in SsP&J on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00 pm. All are welcome for this festive celebration. More details in the poster on display.

All **Altar Servers** are reminded and encouraged to participate in the final rehearsal for the year on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December in SsP&J after the **7:00pm Mass**. You are encouraged to attend and serve on that day.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Vincenzo "Gino" Malone, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be held in Holy Cross church on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am.

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)



**The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham** seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their mission for the re-evangelization of England. Any amount, large or small, is greatly appreciated and the community assures you of their prayers. More information, as well as the option

to donate online, can be found at: [maryshouseappeal.org](http://maryshouseappeal.org) telephone 01362 692574 or email them at: [office@walsinghamcommunity.org](mailto:office@walsinghamcommunity.org)

**For Candidates enrolled for First Holy Communion**  
Prayer Sponsors are 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.

**During Advent**, why not try the online **Rosary Group** which meets from 8:00am to 8:20am weekdays on Zoom. ID: 833 1504 6319 Password: Rosary

Both **Repositories** are open before and after Mass on Sundays and they both have a wealth of Christmas stock.

**NBCC Advent Talk**  
A reminder that Fr Alex will be leading the second of our series of talks at SsP&J this coming Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

**Online Advent Retreat**  
Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 7:30pm - **Disrupted by Grace**  
Week three, Dr Avril Baigent will be joined by Fr Matt Blake who will continue exploring Jesus' more disreputable ancestors. Fr Matt will be unpacking the story of **Ruth** for us whilst exploring the presence of grace in our lives. Register here: [northamptondiocese.org/grace/](http://northamptondiocese.org/grace/)

**Hospital Mass**  
From this Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, and then on the second and fourth Tuesday thereafter each month, Mass will be celebrated at 2:00pm in the 'Prayer Room' of South Wing hospital.

If you are a patient and feel well enough to attend, or if you are a staff member or visitor, please feel free to join us for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Mass.

If you are a patient, please feel free to contact Deacon Tony - 01234 950 453 or via email. Deacon Tony can visit you in hospital; particularly on those days.

**Visiting the sick and the housebound:** If you know anyone who needs a visit, please contact the clergy or send details to [parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org). We will need their names and addresses, contact phone numbers, emails (if applicable), any special needs or requirements and what has been requested (eg. a visit, receiving Holy Communion, anointing of the sick, etc.).

**North Bedford Churches Together (NBCT) Carol Singing** this Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, between 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Tesco, Goldington

**Collections for our joint parishes in November**  
**Holy Cross:** £2029.81 Open plate and envelopes  
**Ss P&J:** £1616.82 Open plate and envelopes  
Figures don't include standing orders or donations made by Dona machines in the narthexes or by the QR codes.



The **NBCC Sacramental Preparation group** gathered for an ★ Advent-Giving-Party ★ with loads of donations of toys for the charity shop and food for the FoodBank. They enjoyed Pizza, biscuit decorating, a quiz, games, dancing and singing. Fun, Faith and Friendship!

**Love Christmas 2025 – Share the Joy, Spread the Light**  
This Advent, your gifts for the **Caritas Northampton's Love Christmas Campaign** will be donated to Young Carers, Bedford. A Young Carer is someone under 18 who helps look after someone in their family, such as a brother, sister, parent, or a friend. Anything that you would give as a Christmas gift to a young family member or friend will be suitable. Please leave your **unwrapped gifts** in the **Caritas** donation boxes at the back of each church. 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. For further information: [northamptondiocese.org/caritas/](http://northamptondiocese.org/caritas/) [youngcarersbedford.com/](http://youngcarersbedford.com/) and the poster on display  
The closing date for gifts is Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December.

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

**Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre**  
In addition to the Giving Tree - below - you may wish to send a card to someone in the IRC. Simply - **From a Friend at Holy Cross church or from Ss Philip and James church**

**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 Immigration Removal Centre**.

**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