

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 December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception

2025

Third Week in Advent - Year A

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A ; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 3

The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live

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

Sat 13 Dec **Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent**

5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** Alan McClelland, RIP

Sun 14 Dec **Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday**

9:00am HC **Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

11:00am PJ **Mass:** John Joseph Corbett, RIP & Katherine Corbett, RIP and David, Joseph Castle, RIP

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

Mon 15 Dec **Feria**

10:00am PJ **Mass:** Colette Diamond, RIP

7:00pm PJ **Carol Service** for St Thomas More school

Tue 16 Dec **Feria**

9:40am HC **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)

10:00am HC **Mass:** Eddie Hughes, RIP

7:00pm HC **Penitential Service until 8:00pm**

Wed 17 Dec **Feria**

10:00am HC **Mass:** Gary Ball, RIP

followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am

Thu 18 Dec **Feria**

8:20am STM **Mass:** All staff and students

9:40am PJ **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)

10:00am PJ **Mass:** Rita Gill RIP

Fri 19 Dec **Feria**

10:00am HC **Mass:** Renato Thomas, RIP

7:00pm PJ **Mass:** Angela and Bill Letch - intention

Sat 20 Dec **Feria**

10:00am PJ **Mass:** Edith Teasdale, RIP

11:00am PJ **Penitential Service until 12:00pm**

5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** Anna Sicurello, RIP

Sun 21 Dec **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00am HC **Mass:** Anne and Gerry Maxwell, RIP

11:00am PJ **Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Come, Lord, and save us.

Gaudete Sunday, 14th December

6:00pm HC

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve - Wednesday, 24th 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, 25th December

9:00am HC Mass

11:00am SsP&J Mass

St Stephen's Day

10:30am HC Mass



The **Christmas Offering Envelopes** are available in the narthex of each church from this weekend.

This weekend, We welcome our Years five and six from **St John Rigby Catholic school** with their parents to our parish Mass at 11:00am. They will participate actively and will be invited to bring up the offertory gifts.

St Thomas More Catholic school **Carol Service** this Tuesday.

All **Altar Servers** are reminded and encouraged to participate in the final rehearsal for the year this Friday, 19th 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 this Thursday, 18th December at 10:30am.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Alfredo Grasso, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be held in Holy Cross church on Tuesday, 23rd December at 1:30pm.

Fr Alex will be travelling on the 29th December and will be away the whole of January for his annual holiday and one year memorial celebration of his late father, Sir Jude Ibe. Please pray for journey mercies and for the repose of the soul of Sir Jude Ibe, RIP.

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

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 Whiterod 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





North Bedford Churches Together at Tesco's, Riverfield Drive, singing carols to raise funds for **SMART CJS (Prebend Street)** and the **Bedford Foodbank**, very ably led by our very own **Ben** on keyboards.

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham seeks help to buy 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. For more information, with the option to donate online, go to: maryshouseappeal.org or telephone: 01362 692574 or email: office@walsinghamcommunity.org

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

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

The **Rosary and Divine Mercy Group** meets in SsP&J each Monday at 1:45pm. Divine Chaplet, Rosary, cup of tea.

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

NBCC Advent Talk

A brief reminder that Fr Alex will be leading the last of our Advent talks at HC this coming **Wednesday, 17th December** at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

Diocesan online Advent Retreat

Monday, 15th December, 7:30pm - **Disrupted by Grace**
Week four and Dr Avril Baigent will be joined by Canon John Udris as he continues exploring Jesus' more disreputable ancestors. Fr John will be unpacking the story of **Bathsheba** for us whilst exploring the presence of grace in our lives.
Register here: northamptondiocese.org/grace/

Hospital Mass

Every second and fourth Tuesday of 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 join us for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Mass.
Furthermore, 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.

You may make donations in the same way as if using the **DONA** machines in the narthexes of our churches.



Ss Philip and James



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

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 your gifts for the **Caritas Northampton's Love Christmas Campaign** will be donated to Young Carers, Bedford. 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 always be gratefully accepted by the **Foodbank**. Further info' at: northamptondiocese.org/caritas/ and: youngcarersbedford.com/ and the poster on display.
The closing date for gifts is this Sunday, 14th December.

Right To Life UK

This year has been one of the most challenging and busiest years for the pro-life movement in the UK, with the biggest battles on abortion and assisted suicide in over 50 years. Thanks to the support of our diocese, there has been a strong, coordinated response in Parliament, in the media, and among the wider public. The **2025 Right To Life UK Year in Review** sets out some of the key areas in which significant progress has been made. To read the **Year in Review**, visit righttolife.org.uk/2025

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**.

In addition to the Giving Tree 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**. Gifts and cards should be left by **Sunday, 21st December** for Fr Alex to distribute after Mass at the IRC on Tuesday, 23rd December.

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

See previous newsletter(s) for details of:

Advent Bible Studies - Join **Mauro Iannicelli** for an engaging Bible study

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

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