



The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception

2025

Fourth Week in Advent - Year A

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A ; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 4

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 20 Dec **Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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*

Mon 22 Dec **Fourth Monday of Advent**

10:00am PJ **Mass:** Stephen Kavanagh, RIP - 1st anniv'

Tue 23 Dec **Fourth Tuesday of Advent**

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

10:00am HC **Mass:** Basil and Hannah and family, RIP

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

Wed 24 Dec **Fourth Wednesday of Advent**

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

5:30pm HC **Carol Service**

6:00pm HC **Family Mass: Missa pro populo**

7:30pm PJ **Carol Service**

8:00pm PJ **Mass:** Deceased Brewer and
Donnelly families, RIP

Thu 25 Dec **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

9:00am HC **Mass:** Ken and Dorice Curtis, RIP

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

Fri 26 Dec **St Stephen, the First Martyr - Feast**

10:30am HC **Mass:** Blaney family, RIP

Sat 27 Dec **St John, Apostle and Evangelist - Feast**

10:00am PJ **Mass:** Slawek, friends and family - healing
followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the
Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am

5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass: Missa pro populo**

Sun 28 Dec **The Holy Family**

9:00am HC **Mass:** Edgar and Catherine Wath, RIP

Mathew & Joy Ogaraku - 25th Wedding Anniv

11:00am PJ **Mass:** Liam Walsh, RIP

Catherine and Augustine Ubaferem Kakie
- 25th Wedding Anniversary

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



*"May the light of Christmas guide
your heart, the joy of the season
lift your spirit, and the love of
Christ fill your home with peace"*
HAPPY CHRISTMAS

From Fr Alex, Fr Richard, Deacon Tony
and Deacon Crispin



Carols by Candlelight

A sincere '**Thank You**' to all those who participated in the Carols by Candlelight last Sunday. Thanks to those who arranged the venue and all who sang: our different choirs, organists, flower arrangers, and those who decorated the church and the sanctuary. We appreciate Deacon Crispin and his wife Sarah for the wonderful refreshments afterwards. We are proud of you all!

Christmas Offering (notice from the diocese)

Any additional donations given at Christmas are used to support the priests of the Diocese. Every penny specifically donated over this weekend (together with any Gift Aid on qualifying donations) is used to support your local priest.

Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James Repositories

The Repositories are open before and after Sunday Mass.

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

Fr Alex on holiday

Fr Alex will be travelling on Monday, 29th December and will be away for January on 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**.

Responsorial Psalm for Sunday, 21st December:

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Responsorial Psalm for The Nativity of the Lord:

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Eucharistic Adoration and the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is on Saturday ONLY 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 Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org (Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971 Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walking-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcispin.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



Deanery Mass timings Christmas 2025

Church/Parish	Christmas Eve – 24 th December	Christmas Day – 25 th December
Holy Cross, Bedford	5.30pm – Carols 6.00pm - Family Mass	9.00am – Mass
Ss Philip & James, Bedford	7.30pm – Carols 8.00pm - Mass	11.00am – Mass
St Joseph's, Bedford	6.30pm – Children's Mass 11.30pm – Carols Midnight Mass	8.15am – Mass 9.30am – Mass 11.00am – Mass
Our Lady's, Kempston	6.30pm – Children's Mass	9.30am – Mass
Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard	5.00pm – Children/Family Mass 9.30pm – Carols 10.00pm - Mass	9.00am – Mass 11.00am - Mass
Christ the King, Bedford	12.30pm – Lithuanian Mass 5.00pm – Vigil Mass of Christmas 8.00pm – Night Mass of Christmas	8.30am – Dawn Mass of Christmas in Latin 10.30am – Holy Mass of Christmas Day 12.00pm – Holy Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite
Sacred Heart, Flitwick	5.00pm – Christmas Vigil (Family Mass) 8.00pm – Christmas Eve Mass 11.00pm – Midnight Mass	9.00am – Christmas Day Mass 11.00am – Christmas Day Mass
St Francis of Assisi, Shefford	6.00pm – Children's Mass 10.00pm Early Midnight Mass	9.00am – Christmas Day Mass
St Peter's, Biggleswade	6.00pm – Children's Mass 9.00pm – Carols 10.00pm – Early Midnight Mass	11.00am – Christmas Day Mass

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop Richard Moth have released a statement reflecting on the meaning of the coming of Christ at Christmas. In it, they express their shared concern about societal tensions and divisions within our communities, something that does not "reflect the spirit or message of Christmas." Read the full message here: cbcew.org.uk/bishops-affirm-the-true-nature-of-catholic-witness-and-worship-at-christmas/

A Catholic evangelization and healing service led by **Anointed Fire Catholic Ministry (AFCM)**, will be held in Our Lady's church, Kempston on Sunday, 3rd January from 1:00pm - 4:00pm. It will include Holy Mass, praise and worship, talks, prayer ministry, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a Healing service. All are welcome.

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.

The winner of the **Christmas Cake raffle** is **blue ticket 260**.

Please call Jo-Anne on 07542 034 735 to claim your prize. We made £176 towards Parish Ministry; so thank you all for participating. Thanks to the welcomers for selling tickets.

Carol Singing at Tesco

A big thank you to everyone who joined us in **Carol Singing** outside Tesco last Thursday. We collected 93kg of food for the Foodbank. This helps provide 122 meals. A similar amount was donated to SMART Prebend Street.

We also collected £76 in cash which is divided between the two charities.

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(s) for details of:

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

For Candidates enrolled for First Holy Communion we need prayer sponsors. We still need another 9.

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham appeal.

maryhouseappeal.org or telephone: 01362 692574 or email: office@walsinghamcommunity.org

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

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

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.

Giving Tree and Yarl's Wood IRC

A sincere appreciation to all of you who have been contributing gifts, cards, praying materials, etc to the homeless and those in need via the **Giving Tree**. Thanks to all who have also done the same for the residents in Yarl's Wood IRC. A reminder that this is the last weekend to return your gifts. *May God bless you all and grant you Joy and Peace this season and beyond.*

Ss Philip and James SVP Conference Funds

Some years ago an appeal was made for donations to fund a pilgrimage to Lourdes for one of our beneficiaries. Sadly, the intended candidate died before the pilgrimage could be arranged and we have been unable to identify another suitable candidate. The money donated was 'ring-fenced' for the purpose which was the subject of the appeal. We would now like to release the money into the Conference's general fund. If any donor does **NOT** agree with the funds being released, please inform our Treasurer – **Liz Ihechere** before 5th January 2026. Lizzem219@hotmail.com

Advent Giving Tree - 2025 During Advent the SVP have appealed for items to help the homeless during Christmas.



The **Giving Trees** are at the back of each church and there are gift tags with the details of an appropriate gift. If you wish to donate a gift, please take a tag from the tree then place the gift in the tub provided nearby.

Please do NOT wrap the items you donate.

This year, we also appealed 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 this **Sunday, 21st December** for Fr Alex to distribute after Mass at the IRC on Tuesday, 23rd December.

St Vincent's

will be closed until Tuesday, 6th January 2026

