

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/January to the Holy Name of Jesus 2025/2026

First Week in Christmas

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

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	27 Dec	Vigil of the Feast of the Holy Family
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Missa pro populo
Sun	28 Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
9:00am	HC	Mass: Edgar and Catherine Wath, RIP Mathew & Joy Ogaraku - 25 th Wedding Anniv
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Liam Walsh, RIP Catherine and Augustine Ubaferem Kakie - 25 th Wedding Anniversary
Mon	29 Dec	St Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr - Feast
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Naomi Whetton, RIP and Joseph Agbedshuni, RIP
Tue	30 Dec	Sixth day of the Christmas Octave
9:40am	PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	HC	Mass: Philomena and Timothy Michael Quinlan, RIP
Wed	31 Dec	Seventh day of the Christmas Octave
10:00am	HC	Mass: Julian Tubielewicz, RIP followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am
		New Year's Day
Thu	1 Jan	Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Solemnity
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Missa pro Populo
Fri	2 Jan	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors - Feast
10:00am	HC	Mass: Peggy James, RIP - 1 st anniversary
7:00pm	PJ	Mass: Missa pro Populo
Sat	3 Jan	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Kerry Irving, RIP followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: David Beagent, RIP - anniversary
Sun	4 Jan	Second Sunday after the Nativity
9:00am	HC	Mass: TBA
11:00am	PJ	Mass: TBA

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

The Feast of the Epiphany

Next Tuesday, 6th January, is the **Feast of the Epiphany** and it is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. All Catholics are 'obliged' to attend Mass unless they are prevented due to serious reasons, e.g. being unwell, caring for someone who is ill, etc. We will celebrate Masses on **Monday, 5th January at 7:00pm** in PJ and **Tuesday, 6th January at 10:00am** in HC.

Thank you - Fr Alex, Fr Richard, Deacon Tony and Deacon Crispin extend their sincere gratitude for the many cards and gifts received during this Christmas season and they offer their assurance of prayers throughout this season and beyond. On behalf of the priests, Fr Alex expresses a profound gratitude and appreciation to everyone for their generous contributions to Christmas Offerings. *"I remain grateful for your continued support and efforts so far. May God continue to bless you all! We continue to hold one another in prayers as we approach the new year."* - **Fr Alex**

Fr Alex will be away from this week on his annual holiday and one year memorial Mass for his late father, Sir Jude Ibe. Deacon Tony will be leading the **Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion** on Wednesdays (**Fr Richard's day off**) with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. **Fr Richard** will celebrate Masses on all other days (Please see the Mass times in the newsletter). **Fr Alex** returns on 6th February.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **John Henry Rumgay, RIP** whose funeral liturgy will take place on Monday, 29th December in Holy Cross church at 10:45am

Please pray also for the happy repose of the soul of **Anna Dina Zanusso, RIP** whose funeral liturgy will be in Holy Cross church at 10:45am on Monday, 5th January.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Mary McNally, RIP** whose funeral Mass will be in Ss Philip and James church at 1:00pm on Monday, 5th January.

Please be aware that **Holy Cross parish office** will be closed this Monday, 29th December and this Thursday, 1st January.

Responsorial Psalm:

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.

Eucharistic Adoration and the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is on Wednesday 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 (closed for holiday) 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





The Children's liturgy journey through Advent

His Holiness **Pope Leo XIV** on 19th December, appointed the **Right Reverend Richard Moth as Archbishop of Westminster**. Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3rd July 1982, Archbishop-elect Moth has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015. Prior to that he was the Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009 to 2015. Archbishop-elect Moth will become the 12th Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who has served in role since 2009.



St. Stephen's Day - 26th December

This year the altar servers of our united parish of Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James once again came together on the feast day of St Stephen - Patron Saint of Altar Servers to celebrate and thank God for His blessings and kindness. Prayers were offered through the intercession of St Stephen for God's guidance as we serve in His altar with great virtue and courage. After the Mass we had a little refreshment in the parish hall and gifts were distributed. A much deserved **'Well done'** to all our Altar Servers and their parents for supporting them.

Thank you all for the glorious Christmas liturgies

Fr Alex would like to thank everyone who participated in and lent their talents to make the Christmas liturgies so wonderful: the choirs, the flowers, those who put up the Crib, the Christmas Tree, cleaners, the readers, the altar servers, the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, the deacons, those who designed and printed flyers, the welcomers, etc. It was a glorious and blessed Christmas. We also extend our gratitude to all who donated gifts, cards and holy images to the residents at Yarl's Wood IRC. God bless you for the positive impact created this Christmas.

Giving Tree - Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who donated items to the Giving Tree. Your response was very generous. The gifts have now been distributed and we have received heartfelt thanks to you all from the staff at Butterfly House (women's refuge).

Ss Philip and James SVP Conference Funds

Some years ago an appeal was made for donations to fund a pilgrimage to Lourdes. We would like to release the money to the Conference's general fund now. If any donor does **NOT** agree with this, please inform our Treasurer – **Liz Ihechere** before 5th January 2026. Lizzem219@hotmail.com

St Vincent's

opens again on Tuesday, 6th January 2026

Holy Cross Church, 355 Goldington Road
Bedford MK41 0DP



Epiphany Home Blessing 2026

The ancient solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord ranks among the principal festivals of the whole liturgical year, since it celebrates the child born of Mary; the manifestation of the one who is the Son of God, the Messiah of the Jewish people; and a light to the nations. There is an ancient tradition of blessing Christian homes at Epiphany, asking God's blessing on all who live in the home in the coming year. We mark the door in chalk with the date, 2026. We also add the initials of the names given to the three wise people who brought gifts to Jesus in his first home:

● **C** for Caspar ● **M** for Melchior ● **B** for Balthasar

The initials, **C-M-B**, also stand for the three words of the Latin prayer: **Christus Mansionem Benedicat**
May Christ bless this house

Gather together this year and pray the prayer below at the door of your house. Mark the door with:

20 + C + M + B + 26

Share doing this with all in the house, if you can, and remember that every time you come in you are asking God's blessing on the life of your home. Sing *"We three kings"* and tell their story (Matthew 2:1-12). If you cannot mark the door, perhaps you may mark the floor.

Prayer at the door of your house

*Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation
by the guidance of a star.*

*Bless this house
and all who inhabit it.*

*Fill us with the light of Christ,
that our concern for others may reflect your love.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessed chalks, used in the blessing of our homes, will be available at each Mass of the Epiphany.

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

