



The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus

2026

Second Week in Christmas

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

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	3 Jan	Vigil of the Sunday after the Nativity
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: David Beagent, RIP - anniversary
Sun	4 Jan	Second Sunday after the Nativity
9:00am	HC	Mass: Missa pro populo
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Missa pro populo
Mon	5 Jan	Christmas Feria
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Caroline Maudlin, RIP
7:00pm	PJ	Vigil Mass: Missa pro populo
Tue	6 Jan	The Epiphany of the Lord *
9:40am	HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	HC	Mass: Basil Hannah and family, RIP
Wed	7 Jan	Epiphany Feria
10:00am	HC	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration to 11:00am</i>
Thu	8 Jan	Epiphany Feria
8:20am	STM	Mass: All staff and students
9:40am	PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Ronald Jackson, RIP
Fri	9 Jan	Epiphany Feria
10:00am	HC	Mass: Angela Edginton, RIP
7:00pm	PJ	Mass: Renato Thomas, RIP
Sat	10 Jan	Epiphany Feria
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Josephine Hodgkiss - healing <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Martin and Kay Monaghan, RIP - first anniversary
Sun	11 Jan	The Baptism of the Lord
9:00am	HC	Mass: Missa pro populo
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Michael Toner, RIP

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

Responsorial Psalm:

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Eucharistic Adoration is on Wednesday in HC after **Liturgy** until 11:00am, and on the Saturday in SsP&J after **Mass** followed by the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** 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; deacontroy.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org (Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971

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

The Feast of the Epiphany

Tuesday, 6th January, is the **Feast of the Epiphany** and is a **Holy Day of Obligation.*** See the liturgical calendar for the times and venues of Masses.



Epiphany Home Blessing 2026

• 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

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, are available at each Mass of the Epiphany.

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 this 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 this Monday, 5th January.



Epiphany Proclamation AD 2026

While a day like Christmas is fixed in our minds and in the calendars as 25th December, many of the important liturgical celebrations of the Church year move (based upon the date of Easter Sunday). Easter Sunday changes each year and is always the Sunday after the "**Paschal Full Moon**" and thus falls between 22nd March and 25th April. In ancient times, before calendars were common (or *Church newsletters were published*), most people did not know the dates of the major liturgical celebrations. As not attending Mass on a **Holy Day of Obligation** was (and remains) a mortal sin, it was important to know the dates. Thus began the tradition that on Epiphany Sunday, the upcoming major celebrations were "**proclaimed**" by a Deacon following the proclamation of the Gospel. We don't expect you to recall all the dates but this simple liturgical action links us with countless Catholic brothers and sisters across the centuries who have gone before us. Like the "**Epiphany Blessing**" (with chalk), the Liturgy Office of England and Wales encourages the restoration of the "**Epiphany Proclamation**" "*its revival in many places would be opportune since it serves to make the connection between the Epiphany and Easter, and orientates all feasts towards the greatest Christian solemnity*".

- Epiphany: Tuesday, 6th January
- Ash Wednesday: 18th February
- Easter Sunday: 5th April
- Ascension of the Lord: Thursday, 14th May
- Pentecost Sunday: 24th May
- Corpus Christi: Sunday, 7th June
- First Sunday of Advent: 29th November

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.

Communion in the pew:

Any parishioner with **mobility problems** may request communion be brought to them in their pew.

Please notify one of the '**Welcomers**' upon arrival at Mass.

Pastoral visits/Communion to the Sick

If you know anyone who is unwell and is longing for a visit with communion, please contact the parish office with the person's name, address and phone number.

Bible Alive

New Year, New Resolution? Just ten minutes a day reflecting on the scriptures is a great way to develop your understanding of the faith and can be a really positive way to start your day. **Bible Alive**, a subscription magazine or app, gives a commentary on the day's gospel-reading relating it to everyday life. Free copies for January and February are available in the narthex of each church.

Collections for our joint parishes in December

Holy Cross: £1798.31p Open plate and envelopes
Ss P&J: £1238.96p Open plate and envelopes

Figures do not include standing orders or donations made by Dona machines in the narthexes or by the QR codes.

See previous newsletter(s) for details of:

Fr Alex on annual holiday and one year memorial Mass for his late father, Sir Jude Ibe - returning on 6th February.

Deacon Tony leads the **Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion** on Wednesdays with Exposition.

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

For Candidates enrolled for **First Holy Communion** we need prayer sponsors. We still need another thirteen!

The **Community of Our Lady of Walsingham** appeal.

maryhouseappeal.org 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.

We remind parents about the **Children's Liturgy of the Word** celebrated on Sundays at the **9:00am Mass from this Sunday** and at the **11:00am Mass from next Sunday**, and during term-time. The sessions use prayer, story, discussion and activities to enable the children to hear and understand what the readings and the gospel are saying to them. All children aged 3 years-plus, are welcome.

LUX Youth Residential Weekend

Our diocesan residential weekend for young people in school years 7 - 13 will take place from 13th- 15th February at Kings Park Centre, Northampton. Packed with workshops, drama, music, worship, Mass, games, and time with friends, this year's theme is **Belong**. The cost is £110. For more info or to book, visit: nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/ or email: NYMO@northamptondiocese.com

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.

If you are an in-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.

Giving Tree Donations

The SVP would like to thank everyone who donated items to the **Ss Philip and James Giving Tree** which were delivered to the SMART Prebend Street just before Christmas.

In addition, Fr Alex would like to thank everybody who donated prayer books and rosary beads, which he delivered to Yarl's Wood 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