



Second Week in Ordinary Time

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 17 Jan Vigil of the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
5:30pm HC Vigil Mass: Mandy Pearce, RIP

Sun 18 Jan Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00am HC Mass: Jozef Pluta, RIP  
11:00am PJ Mass: Missa pro populo

Mon 19 Jan Feria  
10:00am PJ Mass: All Chaplaincy teams

Tue 20 Jan Feria  
9:40am HC Lauds (Morning Prayer)  
10:00am HC Mass: Keith Gardner, RIP

Wed 21 Jan St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr - Memorial  
10:00am HC Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion followed by Eucharistic Adoration to 11:00am

Thu 22 Jan Feria  
8:20am STM Mass: All staff and students  
9:40am PJ Lauds (Morning Prayer)  
10:00am PJ Mass: Fr Wayne and Fr Christopher

Fri 23 Jan Feria  
10:00am HC Mass: Natalie Eddison, RIP  
7:00pm PJ Mass: Missa pro populo

Sat 24 Jan St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor - Mem  
10:00am PJ Mass: Sergey and the people of Moscow followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am  
5:30pm HC Vigil Mass: Lesley Sykes, RIP

Sun 25 Jan Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday of the Word of God  
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:

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Eucharistic Adoration is on Wednesdays in HC after Liturgy until 11:00am, and on Saturdays in SsP&J after Mass, followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am.



Next Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> January is  
Sunday of the Word of God

The Catholic Church will celebrate the Seventh “Sunday of the Word of God” on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026, under the motto: “The word of Christ dwells among you” (Col 3:16).

Observed each year on the **third Sunday in Ordinary Time**, this day invites the faithful to reflect on, celebrate, and share the Word of God in their daily lives.

The celebration was established by Pope Francis in his 2019 Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, emphasizing the essential connection between the Risen Lord, Christian communities, and Sacred Scripture. The Pope calls on all believers to make the *Word of God* a living presence in their hearts, guiding their actions and inspiring their witness.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, explains this year’s theme:

“**Saint Paul’s words to the Colossians, ‘The word of Christ dwells among you’,** invite us not only to listen to the Word but to let it dwell within us. The Word shapes our thoughts, guides our desires, and unites the Christian community. To welcome it is to allow Christ to speak through our lives, bringing hope and life to those around us.”

This year, the celebration also coincides with the **Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul**, marking the end of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. Just as the Word transformed Paul on the road to Damascus, it continues to call Christians today to open their hearts and share the Gospel.

Flower arrangers at Ss Philip and James

You will have seen, through the year, the wonderful displays of flowers that our teams of arrangers put together. The flower arrangers are looking for people to join the team. Please contact Maureen Brewer on 07749 251 625 and release your inner **florist** or **ikebana**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Jane Fitzgerald, RIP** (sister of Peter Gerrish), who passed away recently. Funeral arrangements are to be confirmed.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Giuseppe Belle, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be held in Holy Cross church on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00am.

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)





### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 2026

Sunday 18th 6.00pm	<b>St Andrew's Church</b> KIMBOLTON ROAD, BEDFORD MK40 2PF
Monday 19th 9.00am	<b>St Paul's Church</b> ST PAUL'S SQUARE, BEDFORD MK40 1SQ Also on zoom: Meeting ID 98213450148 Password 300867
Tuesday 20th 11.30am	<b>St Martin's Church</b> CLAPHAM ROAD, BEDFORD MK41 7PW
Wednesday 21st 1.30pm	<b>Bunyan Meeting</b> MILL ST, BEDFORD MK40 3EU
Thursday 22nd 1.00pm to 1.30pm	<b>Bedford Quakers (Friends Meeting House)</b> 5 LANSLOWNE ROAD, BEDFORD MK40 2BY You are welcome to bring lunch to eat together afterwards
Saturday 24th 2.30pm	<b>Holy Child and St Joseph</b> 2 BRACKTON ROAD, BEDFORD MK40 1HU
Sunday 25th 7.00pm	<b>Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Cuthbert Church (Polish Church)</b> MILL ST, BEDFORD MK40 3EU

churches together  
IN BEDFORD AND ITS VICINITY

JOIN US FOR A

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY JANUARY 31

Starting at 7:30pm  
arrive by 7.15pm

Christ the King  
Church Hall  
Harrold Road  
Bedford  
MK42 0SP

Tickets are £10 which includes

FISH & CHIPS

Limited Bar (Cash only)  
or bring your own  
- Raffle -

Teams of up to 8 people. These can be organised on the night; you don't have to come in a ready-made team.

All monies raised are for Church hall roof repairs

For tickets contact Rachel Kirkham 01234 314093

### Come and See - Discernment Day for Men

This day is for men exploring or discerning a possible call to the diocesan priesthood. It offers a relaxed opportunity for prayer, reflection, input on priestly vocation, and open questions.

- **Date:** Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March
- **Time:** 11:00am
- **Location:** Olney
- **Programme:**
  - Prayer and reflection
  - Talks about priestly vocation
  - Open Q&A session
- **Who Should Attend:** Men thinking about or discerning a call to priesthood.

Full information is available on the diocesan website:  
[northamptondiocese.org/priestly-discernment](http://northamptondiocese.org/priestly-discernment)

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.

### Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James Repositories

Our Repositories are open before and after Sunday Mass.

### Mass Intentions

Maria Quinlan, parish secretary SsP&J, informs your editor that there are still spaces available for February and March this year. Intentions need not be for deceased relatives only; they may be for joyous occasions too.

Contact Maria and ask for a date (details bottom of page 1) giving the names and occasion and any preferred date or venue. Although Mass is celebrated without charge and can not be "bought", it is customary to offer a suitable stipend as a donation to the church. Such cash donations may be left in the collection in an envelope marked, "Mass intention for XXXX". You can not currently donate through DONA but you can use either of the parish bank accounts. Details on the NBCC website: [northbedfordcatholics.org.uk/](http://northbedfordcatholics.org.uk/)

**Bible Alive** - Just ten minutes a day reflecting on the scriptures is a great 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 still available in the narthex of each church. They have proven to be very popular and more copies have been ordered.

### Lost property

An **Eternity ring** has been found in Holy Cross church. If it is yours, please contact Sheila in Holy Cross parish office.

### Christmas Cake Raffle

As the Christmas cake has NOT been claimed, the holder of **Orange ticket 322** has now won. If it is not claimed within a week, it will be donated.

**LUX Youth Residential Weekend** from 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> February in Northampton. For info and booking: [nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/](http://nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/) or email: [NYMO@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:NYMO@northamptondiocese.com)



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



### Journey with Jesus through Lent

During Lent, the Pastoral Development Vicariate is offering the opportunity for online small group sessions once a week for six weeks beginning **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February**.

During each weekly small group session, facilitators will be using **St Beuno's Outreach Prego resources**, allowing you to pray and reflect on Scripture for the coming Sunday. Within the session there will be time for silent reflection and sharing what spoke to you from Scripture.

Sessions will be available on various days and times.

To find out more and to sign-up to our introductory webinar on **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm**, visit the diocesan website: [northamptondiocese.org/lenten-journey/](http://northamptondiocese.org/lenten-journey/)

### Catechist Formation - Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis

Are you called to be a catechist? Do you want to grow in confidence and understanding as you accompany others on their faith journey?

This online training course draws from Scripture, Church documents, and lived experience. It is ideal for both new and experienced catechists.

Course Dates:

- Seven virtual sessions from 7:30 - 9:00pm
- Starts Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February
- Subsequent sessions: 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> March; 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> April

Course materials include Zoom links. There is no fixed fee, though donations are always welcomed.

[northamptondiocese.org/courses/bishops-certificate-in-catechesis-level-1-february-2026/](http://northamptondiocese.org/courses/bishops-certificate-in-catechesis-level-1-february-2026/)

### SVP Surplus Gift Sale In aid of the Camino Pilgrimage

In Holy Cross church hall on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February after 5:30pm Mass and then on Sunday, after the 9:00am Mass. Please leave donations in the box in the narthex by Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February. All money raised will directly benefit our local and national SVP. **Thank You**



## 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