

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 January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus/February to the Holy Family

2026

Third Week in Ordinary Time

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 24 Jan Vigil of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Mon 26 Jan Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops - Memorial

10:00am PJ Mass: John and Bridie Boyle, healing

Tue 27 Jan Feria

9:40am HC Lauds (Morning Prayer)

10:00am HC Mass: Jane Fitzgerald, RIP

Wed 28 Jan St Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor - Mem

10:00am HC Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion followed by Eucharistic Adoration to 11:00am

Thu 29 Jan Feria

8:20am STM Mass: All staff and students

9:40am PJ Lauds (Morning Prayer)

10:00am PJ Mass: Jim Brown, healing

Fri 30 Jan Feria

10:00am HC Mass: Reg Wooding, RIP - 8th Anniversary

7:00pm PJ Mass: Carmela Diiorio, RIP - Anniversary

Sat 31 Jan St John Bosco, Priest - Memorial

10:00am PJ Mass: Derrick Stallard, RIP followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am

5:30pm HC Vigil Mass: Paul Mulhem, RIP

Sun 1 Feb Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day of Prayer for Racial Justice

9:00am HC Mass: Jane Fitzgerald, RIP

11:00am PJ Mass: Missa pro populo

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

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

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.



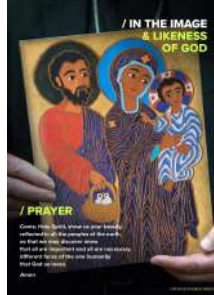
Sunday of the Word of God

This is Seventh "Sunday of the Word of God" and is under the motto: "The word of Christ dwells among you" (Col 3:16). This year the theme is; "Saint Paul's words to the Colossians, 'The word of Christ dwells among you'.

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.

Day of Prayer for Racial Justice: Sunday, 1st February

The theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: "Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes.



Where racial justice is concerned, we must never tire of repeating what has been said before. Racial Justice Sunday 2026 is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales and society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms. In an increasingly tense climate, it is imperative that we listen to, and learn from, the experiences, challenges and opportunities encountered in the mission of promoting racial justice in Catholic parishes today. Our parishes should be places where we can all truly grow in ever-deeper knowledge and love of each other and God.

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

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of Jane Fitzgerald, RIP, whose funeral will be on Monday, 9th February at 1:45pm in Bedford Crematorium.

And please pray for the repose of the soul of Marguerite Walsh, RIP, who passed away peacefully in her sleep on 22nd January. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

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; deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC; Shirley Whiteford 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



JOIN US FOR A

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY JANUARY 31

Starting at 7:30pm
arrive by 7:15pm

Christ the King Church Hall
Harrowden 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, time and venue:** Saturday, 28th March at 11:00am in Our Lady help of Christians and St Lawrence, 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

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, 16th 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.

To find out more and to sign-up to the introductory webinar this **Tuesday, 27th January at 7:30pm**, visit the diocesan website: 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, 27th February
- Subsequent sessions: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March; 10th, 17th April

There is no fixed fee, donations welcomed. See the website: northamptondiocese.org/courses/bishops-certificate-in-catechesis-level-1-february-2026/

Night Shelter - Giving Tree Thank You

We really appreciate your food donation and every donation like this has such an impact upon our individual guests who stay with us over the coldest nights of the year. Please convey our heartfelt gratitude to everyone in the congregation.

In April, *Krystyna Sykes* will be walking the **Camino de Santiago**. The walk will be 100km over six days and Krystyna will be raising funds for the **SVP** through sponsorship and organised events in the parish. The SVP and Krystyna would be very grateful for your prayers and support for the fundraising - the next event is the **Table Top Sale** and there will be a **Quiz Night** at the end of February. You may donate: justgiving.com/page/krystyna-sykes-2

SVP Surplus Gift Sale In aid of the Camino Pilgrimage

The Gift sale will be in Holy Cross church hall on Saturday, 14th 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, 8th February. All money raised will directly benefit our local and national SVP. **Thank You**

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. Donations may be left with the collection in an envelope marked, "Mass intention for XXXX". You can not currently donate through DONA but you may use either of the parish bank accounts. Details on the NBCC website.

Bible Alive - Just ten minutes a day reflecting on the scriptures is a great way to start your day. **Bible Alive** gives a commentary on the day's gospel-reading. Free copies for January and February are still available in the narthexes.

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 still looking for people to join the team. Please contact Maureen Brewer on 07749 251 625 and release your inner **florist** or **ikebana**.

Going One Step Further - Saturday, 31st January

Following the *Sunday of the Word of God*, all **readers** are invited to a reflective day at the Holy Ghost Centre, Westbourne Road, Luton LU4 8JD, from 11:00am - 3:00pm. The day will offer an opportunity to pray, share, and explore the Word of God together. Refreshments are provided. To attend: deaconpeter.collins@northamptondiocese.org

Love and Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle

This year marks 100 years since *St John of the Cross* was declared Doctor of the Church. Celebrate this anniversary with Fr Matthew Blake, OCD, leading a reflective residential weekend exploring the themes of love and beauty in the saint's most celebrated poetry. From Friday, 20th to Sunday 22nd February, participants will be invited to delve into the spiritual richness of *The Spiritual Canticle* and deepen their appreciation of St John's timeless insights into God's love. Apply through the Christian Heritage Centre website.

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



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

