



The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family

2026

Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

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 31 Jan	Vigil of the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
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: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Mon 2 Feb	The Presentation of the Lord - Feast
10:00am PJ	Mass: Tim Peachey, RIP
Tue 3 Feb	Feria
9:40am HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	Mass: Paddy Crampton, RIP
Wed 4 Feb	Feria
10:00am HC	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration to 11:00am</i>
Thu 5 Feb	St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr - Memorial
8:20am STM	Mass: All staff and students
9:40am PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	Mass: Marie Peachey, RIP
Fri 6 Feb	Ss Paul Miki and companions, Martyrs-Mem
10:00am HC	Mass: Mia Davantes, healing
7:00pm PJ	Mass: John Asher, RIP
Sat 7 Feb	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00am PJ	Mass: Baby Sirblin Henson, safe arrival <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Daniele Frascoia, RIP
Sun 8 Feb	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
11:00am PJ	Mass: Michael Toner, RIP

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

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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.

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

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* 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 be aware that the **Holy Cross parish office** will be closed on Monday, 16th and Thursday, 19th February.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Giuseppe Belle, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be held in Holy Cross church this 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. For those unable to attend, the service will be available online at: watch.obitus.com (username: **velo0179** password: **671181**)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Michelina Valerio, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be held at the Italian church, Woburn Road on Thursday, 5th February at 12:30pm.

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 still to be confirmed.





Thanks be to God, we now have enough prayer partners to give each child their own sponsor. The children continue to prepare for the sacraments and in just one month they will have their First Reconciliation. On Saturday last, they learned the Five-Finger Prayer.

Come and See - Discernment Day for Men

This is a day for men exploring or discerning a possible call to the diocesan priesthood.

- **Date, time and place:** 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

Catechist Formation - Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis

There is no fixed fee, donations welcomed. Course details:

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

northamptondiocese.org/courses/bishops-certificate-in-catechesis-level-1-february-2026/

National Board of Catholic Women

Dr Phyllis Zagano, world expert on the role of women in the Catholic church, will be joining the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) on Thursday, 26th February, online at 6:30pm, for a conversation entitled:

The Synod and Women: Which Way to the Future?

Dr Zagano joins the NBCW (a consultative body to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales) at the beginning of an exciting year of innovative engagement with Catholic women. To register, please visit: nbcw.co.uk

Six bible studies on the Sunday Gospels in Lent

Mauro Iannicelli from the *Come and See Formation Ministries* will break-open the Sunday Gospels in Lent with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions.

It starts on Tuesday, 17th February @7:00pm and then continues for five consecutive Tuesdays until 24th March.

It is live on **YouTube**. Visit: comeandsee.org/lent26

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 the 5:30pm Mass and then on Sunday, after the 9:00am Mass. Please leave donations in the box in the narthex by next Sunday, 8th February. All money raised will directly benefit our local and national SVP. **Thank You**

SVP Quiz Night in aid of the *Camino Pilgrimage*

Friday, 27th February, 7:00pm in Holy Cross parish room with a maximum of eight persons per team - costs: £10 per adult £5 per child (under 5s free) - the price includes buffet supper but **bring your own drinks**. Naturally there is a raffle on the night. All proceeds to **SVP - Camino Pilgrimage** and tickets will be on sale after Masses from next weekend.

Contact Krystyna Sykes on 07814 861 843

In April, Krystyna Sykes will be walking the *Camino de Santiago*. Krystyna will walk the 100km over six days and will raise funds for the **SVP** through sponsorship.

You may donate: justgiving.com/page/krystyna-sykes-2

Journey with Jesus through Lent

During Lent, the *Pastoral Development Vicariate* is offering you the opportunity for weekly online small-group sessions (various days and times are available) to help deepen your relationship with Jesus through Scripture. Using St Beuno's Outreach Prego resources, each 45 minute session invites you to pray and reflect on Scripture for the coming Sunday. Starting week-commencing 16th February, the programme runs once a week for six weeks. You may still sign up at: northamptondiocese.org/lenten-journey/

Love and Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle

It is 100 years since **St John of the Cross** was declared a Doctor of the Church. To celebrate this anniversary, Fr Matthew Blake, OCD, is leading a residential weekend exploring the themes of love and beauty in the saint's poetry. From Friday, 20th to Sunday, 22nd February you may apply through the Christian Heritage Centre website.

Encounter Ministry Healing Service

Encounter Ministry is hosting a special **Healing Service** at **Northampton Cathedral** on **Saturday, 28th February** at 7:30pm. All are warmly invited to attend.

The event is free and with no sign-up required. *It forms part of a wider healing school taking place on Friday and Saturday*, welcoming over 100 participants from across the UK who will serve as prayer ministers on Saturday evening. northamptondiocese.org/courses/encounter-ministries/

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 team of arrangers put together. Our flower arrangers are still looking for more people to join the team. Please contact Maureen Brewer on 07749 251 625 and release your inner **florist** or **ikebana**.

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

