



The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family

2026

Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

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 7 Feb	Vigil of the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
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
Mon 9 Feb	Feria
10:00am PJ	Mass: John, Louise and Carmel Donnelly, RIP
Tue 10 Feb	St Scholastica, Virgin - Memorial Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9:40am HC	Mass: Marguerite Walsh, RIP
10:00am HC	
Wed 11 Feb	Feria Mass: Thanksgiving for Altar servers <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am</i>
Thu 12 Feb	Feria Mass: All staff and students
8:20am STM	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9:40am PJ	Mass: Pat Wood, healing
10:00am PJ	
Fri 13 Feb	Feria Mass: Bishop David Oakley, intention
10:00am HC	
7:00pm PJ	Mass: tba
Sat 14 Feb	Ss Cyril, Monk, and St Methodius, Bishop Co-Patrons of Europe - Feast Mass: Hilary Carter, intention
10:00am PJ	<i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Stella Good, healing
Sun 15 Feb	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass: Melanie - 18 th Birthday
9:00am HC	
11:00am PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>

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

Responsorial Psalm:

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

This Sunday is the feast of **St Josephine Bakhita FDCC**, who is patron of our Bedfordshire Pastoral Area.

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; deacontroy.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 (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

Welcome home Fr Alex

Appreciation

I remain ever grateful to all of you who have been supporting our united parish in any way possible. Thanks for your commitment and effort. I also appreciate the work of the clergy - **Fr Richard and the Deacons**, maintaining the liturgical activities while I was away. I thank everyone who prayed for journey mercies granted to me. God bless you all. **Fr Alex**

18th February is Ash Wednesday and we begin the season of Lent. Please find time to return the palm crosses blessed during last year's Palm Sunday to the baskets provided in the narthexes of our churches. They will be used to make ashes for **Ash Wednesday**.

Congratulations to **Yaurima and Ewan Agar** who celebrated their **fifteenth wedding anniversary** on 5th February. We wish you both and your family every blessing

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

The Repositories are open before and after Sunday Mass. **SsP&J Repository** has new stock including St Patrick and Easter cards.

MCM Live-stream from Holy Cross. We apologise for the inconvenience. MCN, our livestream provider, hope that the technical difficulties are resolved by this Sunday.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Jane Fitzgerald, RIP**, whose funeral will be this 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)

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 are still to be confirmed.

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.



Pope Leo's prayer intention for February

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Walking in the Holy Spirit (Fanning into Flames)

The **Northampton Charismatic Diocesan Services of Communion** invite parishioners to take part in *Walking in the Holy Spirit (Fanning into Flames)* — a four-part monthly online-series exploring how the Holy Spirit shapes, strengthens, and sends us out as disciples.

Sessions run from 7:00 - 8:30pm on Tuesdays:

- 17th February – *Growth* – Fr Emmanuel Okami
- 17th March – *Bonding* – Speaker to be confirmed
- 16th June – *Empowerment* – Charles Whitehead
- 14th July – *Mission* – Maria Heath

All are welcome. For more information visit:

northamptondiocese.org/courses/walking-in-the-holy-spirit/

Catholic Young Artist and Young Writer Awards

The *Catholic Union Charitable Trust* is delighted to announce the **Catholic Young Artist Award**, newly launched this year and open to primary school-aged children.

The theme is **Forgiveness**. The judge is Margaret Mizen, Founder of the *Mizen Foundation*

The winner will be announced before the end of the academic year and will receive a cash prize, with runners-up also recognised. This Award runs alongside the **Catholic Young Writer Award**, open to Catholic pupils of secondary school age, which invites young people to reflect on the question: "Why do we go to Confession?"

For more information:

catholicunion.org.uk/2026/01/young-catholic-artist-award-2026/

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/

National Marriage Week is an annual celebration that supports and promotes marriage and family life and runs from **7th to 14th February** and invites us to reflect on the central role of marriage and family in our Church and society, as we prepare for the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis' **Amoris Laetitia** (The Joy of Love) on 19th March.

To help in this reflection two resources are available:

- **The Joy of Love**, launched by the Bishops' Conference Committee for Marriage and Family Life, explores key themes of *Amoris Laetitia*, including Joy, Love, Mercy, Realities and Discernment, and Mission.
- The **National Marriage Week Novena** offers daily prayers based on the Sunday readings of the week.

We encourage all to read, share, and join in prayerful reflection during this special time. [National Marriage Week](http://northamptondiocese.org/courses/national-marriage-week/)

Collections for our joint parishes in January

Holy Cross: £1781.82 Open plate and envelopes

Ss P&J: £1429.68 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:

Flower arrangers at Ss Philip and James

Please contact Maureen Brewer on 07749 251 625

Journey with Jesus through Lent

Starting next week, 16th February, the programme runs weekly for six weeks.

Love and Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle

From Friday, 20th to Sunday, 22nd February you may apply through the Christian Heritage Centre website.

Come and See - Discernment Day for Men

Saturday, 28th March at 11:00am in Our Lady help of Christians and St Lawrence, Olney

Catechist Formation - Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis

Starts Friday, 27th February for seven weeks

National Board of Catholic Women

Thursday, 26th February, online at 6:30pm. A conversation:

The Synod and Women: Which Way to the Future?

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.

The diocese are currently recruiting three **Property Area Coordinators**, each for the maintenance, compliance, and performance of a defined portfolio of properties within an allocated geographic area of the Diocese.

This is a full-time, 12-month fixed-term contract, with the possibility of extension or becoming permanent.

As each role covers a different part of the Diocese. Three area-specific job descriptions are available and candidates should review the one relevant to their preferred location.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 7th March 2026. Interview dates will be confirmed in due course; however, we reserve the right to close the advert early should we receive a sufficient number of applications.

Full information for the position and an application form may be found by visiting: northamptondiocese.org/jobs

SVP Surplus Gift Sale in aid of the *Camino Pilgrimage*

The Gift sale will be in Holy Cross church hall next 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 this Sunday**. 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 this 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



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

