



The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family

2026

## Sixth 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 14 Feb **Vigil of the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** Stella Good, healing

Sun 15 Feb **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00am HC **Mass:** Melanie - 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday

11:00am PJ **Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

Mon 16 Feb **Feria**

10:00am PJ **Mass:** Bill Bartram, RIP

Tue 17 Feb **Feria**

9:40am HC **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)

10:00am HC **Mass:** Lesley Pitter and family, RIP

Wed 18 Feb **Ash Wednesday \***

**Psalter Week 4**

10:00am HC **Mass:** Gil Tillotson, RIP  
*followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am*

7:00pm PJ **Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

Thu 19 Feb **Thursday after Ash Wednesday**

9:40am PJ **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)

10:00am PJ **Mass:** Richard J Leonard, RIP

Fri 20 Feb **Friday after Ash Wednesday**

10:00am HC **Mass:** Richard Thomas, healing

7:00pm PJ **Mass:** Housebound parishioners in hospital

7:40pm PJ **Stations of the Cross**

Sat 21 Feb **Saturday after Ash Wednesday**

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

5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** Rory Connelly, RIP

Sun 22 Feb **First Sunday in Lent**

9:00am HC **Mass:** Josephine Morrell, RIP

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 those who walk in the law of the Lord!

### **Ash Wednesday**

This Wednesday 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 create the ashes for **Ash Wednesday**.

Masses on **Ash Wednesday with distribution of ashes** on our foreheads will be celebrated at:

**Holy Cross: 10:00am** followed by *Exposition and Sacrament of Reconciliation* afterwards.

**Ss Philip and James: 7:00pm**

*\* Please note that Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence*

### **Stations of the Cross in Lent**

Tuesdays, after the 10:00am Mass at HC. (All Welcome)

Fridays, after 7:00pm Mass in SsP&J. (All Welcome)

### **Lent House Masses and sharing God's Word**

Every year, beginning from the first Thursday in Lent, we gather in groups as friends and families to celebrate Masses in homes/halls. This year, beginning from Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, there will be an opportunity for **House/group Masses** every Thursday through Lent where the host/group can invite a few parishioners and friends for a **House Mass** and sharing God's Word. The priest will arrange with the host for a lift to the venue. If you would like to host a **House Mass** please fill in the information in the folder in the narthex or email: [parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org)

A big **'Thank you'** to everyone who prayed for Fr Alex, who has recovered from the ugly incident and shocking experience he had outside the rectory last Monday, during which his car was stolen by two young men. Since our priests now have no car, they will need for lifts to celebrate Masses for the time being. Thank God there was no serious injury.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Marguerite Violet Walsh, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be held at Holy Cross church on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, at 11:15am, followed by a cremation service at Norse Road.

**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](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)**



# 40 pence for 40 days



Will you take part in our 40 for 40 challenge this Lent?

By giving up 40 pence a day for the 40 days of Lent you can support local individuals and families facing hardship this Easter.

All you have to do is find an old jam jar or similar container and start collecting!



**Ending hunger  
together**

Registered Charity Number: 1179538 | Registered in England & Wales

## Journey with Jesus through Lent

Starting this week the on-line programme of bible studies based on the Sunday Mass readings runs on Tuesdays throughout Lent for six weeks.

## Walk with Me

The Lent 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue of *Walk with Me* is available in the narthexes of our churches. Using this excellent booklet we will walk together into the future with confidence. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Heb 13:8)

## Walking in the Holy Spirit (Fanning into Flames)

Four online sessions run from 7:00 - 8:30pm on Tuesdays, starting 17<sup>th</sup> February with *Growth* by Fr Emmanuel Okami [northamptondiocese.org/courses/walking-in-the-holy-spirit/](http://northamptondiocese.org/courses/walking-in-the-holy-spirit/)

## Rite of Election 2026

All *Catechumens and Candidates* will be presented during Masses on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February in our community. The *Rite of Election* will be celebrated for the diocese in the Cathedral also on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, at 3:00pm. All Catechumens who are to celebrate the sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, and all Candidates who are to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil will be elected by the Bishop for the Easter Sacraments during this liturgy. Please continue to pray for *Yamarie, Sharon, Hector, Cameron and Zac*, who will be elected this year as they prepare to join our parish community. And also *Adeola and Leonard* who will join them for Confirmation.

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, 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Interview dates to be confirmed.

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

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

The Gift Sale will be in Holy Cross church hall this Saturday after the 5:30pm Mass and then after the 9:00am Mass. All money raised will directly benefit our local and national SVP. **Thank You**

**SVP Quiz Night** in aid of the *Camino Pilgrimage* on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> 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. All proceeds to **SVP - Camino Pilgrimage** and tickets are 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](http://justgiving.com/page/krystyna-sykes-2) and also using our **DONA** machines under "SVP Camino".

## 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/](http://catholicunion.org.uk/2026/01/young-catholic-artist-award-2026/)

## We Dare to Ask

The **Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales** Lenten resource seeks to encourage an appreciation of what is given in Christian Baptism. God desires what is best for each of us while respecting our freedom to choose. To express our acceptance of the wonderful gift that God offers us, with open hearts and a willingness to change for the better, all we need to do is ask. This is the third year in the series, "We dare to..."

You may download the five sessions from:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/we-dare-to-ask/>

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

