



The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph

2026

Second Week in Lent

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 2

The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live

HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James; STM - St Thomas More

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| Sat 28 Feb | Vigil of the Second Sunday in Lent |
| 5:30pm HC | Vigil Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i> |
| Sun 1 Mar | Second Sunday in Lent |
| | CAFOD Family Fast Day collection |
| 9:00am HC | Mass: Robert Meehan, RIP |
| 11:00am PJ | Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i> |
| Mon 2 Mar | Feria |
| 10:00am PJ | Mass: Slawek family and friends - healing |
| Tue 3 Mar | Feria |
| 9:40am HC | Lauds (Morning Prayer) |
| 10:00am HC | Mass: Angela Edgington, RIP |
| Wed 4 Mar | Feria |
| 10:00am HC | Mass: Jeffrey Michael Cook, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am</i> |
| Thu 5 Mar | Feria |
| 8:20am STM | Mass: All staff and students |
| 9:40am PJ | Lauds (Morning Prayer) |
| 10:00am PJ | Mass: Sean Murphy, RIP |
| Fri 6 Mar | Feria |
| 10:00am HC | Mass: Marcello Nocera, RIP |
| 10:30am HC | Stations of the Cross |
| 7:00pm PJ | Mass: Angelo Diiorio, RIP |
| 7:30pm PJ | Stations of the Cross |
| Sat 7 Mar | Feria |
| 10:00am PJ | Mass: Carli family, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i> |
| 5:30pm HC | Vigil Mass: Margaret Brannan, RIP |
| Sun 8 Mar | Third Sunday in Lent |
| 9:00am HC | Mass: Fr Liam Castle - intention |
| 11:00am PJ | Mass: Ignatius Ekeigwe, RIP |

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

Responsorial Psalm: May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Parish General Meeting, SsP&J - next Sunday, 8th March

Fr Alex has called together all the organisations and societies that help our joint parishes fulfill their baptismal promises. There will be presentations made by each group, describing what they offer and how they may be approached. The meeting starts at 3:00pm and everyone is welcome to attend and hear about what happens in-an-around our parishes. There will be refreshments too!

Lent House Masses and sharing God's Word

Every year in Lent, we gather in groups as friends and families to celebrate Masses in homes/halls. This year, beginning this week, there are opportunities for **House/group Masses** every Thursday through Lent where the host/group may 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 each narthex, or email:

parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org

This Sunday, 1st March, the **Second Sunday of Lent**, we welcome Year three and four children to join staff at the 11:00am Mass in Ss Philip and James Church.

CAFOD Lent Appeal

There is a retiring collection this weekend for the **CAFOD Family Fast Day** of last Friday.

First Holy Communion candidates

Please continue to pray for the young children who have made their first Confession and continue on their journey towards **First Holy Communion** on 5th/6th June.

Please also pray for the **Catechumens and Candidates**, together with their families and sponsors, who were enrolled last Sunday as they continue to prepare for their Confirmation into the Catholic church this Easter.

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, 12th March, at 11:15am, followed by a cremation service at Norse Road.

Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is

on Wednesdays in HC after **Mass** until 11:00am, and on Saturdays in SsP&J, also after **Mass**, 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; 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 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



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

COME AND JOIN KINGSTHORPE CHURCHES TOGETHER

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH AT 2PM

AT ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, MANOR ROAD,
KINGSTHOPE, NN2 6QJ

THEME: I WILL GIVE YOUR REST, COME
PREPARED BY THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN FROM
NIGERIA

As we take part in this service, we join a great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, beginning in Samoa and ending, 146 countries later in American Samoa, all praying with and for the country and people of Nigeria

ALL ARE WELCOME

REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS

Call: 07724968385

For more information



WORK EXPERIENCE

CAFOD and SVP are working together to offer **residential** work experience for **20 young adults**.

Candidates must be in their **first** or **second** year at **university**.

21st- 26th June 2026

All accommodation costs, meals and travel to the Office throughout the week are covered.

CAFOD National Office, Romero House, Waterloo, SE1 7JB

For more information, please contact
• KeziaH@svp.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 6th April



See previous newsletters for the details of:

Journey with Jesus through Lent

Visit: comeandsee.org/lent26

Walk with Me is still available in the narthexes.

We Dare to Ask

The **Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales** Download from: cbcew.org.uk/we-dare-to-ask/

Come and See - Discernment for Men Saturday, 28th March at 11:00am in Our Lady help of Christians and St Lawrence, Olney

Catholic Young Artist and Young Writer Awards

The deadline for young artistic

submissions is 22nd May. The deadline for young writers is 30th June.

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

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.

Nigeria 2026



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7, 365 Days a year Prayer movement, Ecumenical International Women-led
wdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number: 233242

The weekly **Pray and Play** is now at **Holy Cross church**. Sessions start at 6:30pm, Mondays.

Fr Alex's car

You may be aware that **Fr Alex's** car was stolen recently. If anyone has a good, well-maintained, reliable and affordable car that they are thinking of selling in the immediate future, Fr Alex might be interested in buying it.

Please contact him at the Presbytery or email:

fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org

Mothering Sunday, 15th March

This Mothering Sunday will see the inauguration of the **Catholic Women's Organisation (CWO)** in **NBCC**. The **CWO** is a social-religious group of Catholic women. Their aim is to encourage and promote Catholic values through their members, support local charities, and contribute to the spiritual and social growth of the church. If you wish to enquire about this group, contact **Uju** on 07908 444 800.

Any parishioner with **mobility problems** may request communion be brought to them in their pew.

Please notify one of the **'Welcomers'** upon arrival at Mass.

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.

Service to others takes many forms in our churches. It can be as high-profile as Priests, Deacons, Extraordinary Ministers and Readers. There are also those who work in the background. We need one or two people to take on the

Ministry of Refreshments at Holy Cross after the 9:00am Sunday Mass. To find out more, please speak to Kathy Goodwin, telephone 07956 560 380 or email kathye.goodwin@gmail.com. Thank you.

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



Diocesan Lent Resources

Bringing together a wide range of Lenten resources to support both groups and individuals on their journey through this sacred season, there is a **Lent Resources** page on the diocesan website. Whether you are looking for prayer materials, reflections, or practical ideas for fasting and almsgiving, these resources are there to help deepen faith and encourage spiritual renewal in Lent. All materials are offered to support parishes, families and individuals as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

northamptondiocese.org/lent-resources/

CELEBRATE Family Activity Pack for Lent

The **downloadable family resources for Lent**, include creative ways to help families grow close to God during this season. There are engaging ways to countdown the days in Lent, reflective prayer and discussion, craft, games, books and movies to help families draw close to God.

CELEBRATE has also created a Lent game this year - **Journey to Easter Joy** - which encourages children to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving, in fun and interactive ways this Lent. See: celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks

The World Community for Christian Meditation

Join Fr Laurence Freeman and friends in creative dialogue throughout the year in a series of 10 online sessions from February - December. Register at wccm.org

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 using our **DONA** machines or the QR codes below under **"SVP Camino"** until the beginning of March.

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

