



The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph

2026

Third Week in Lent

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 7 Mar **Vigil of the Third Sunday in Lent**
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 - 1st Anniversary
12:00pm HC **Baptism:** Vinny Caruso

Celebrant: Deacon Crispin Walkling-Lea

Mon 9 Mar **Feria**
10:00am PJ **Mass:** Fr Wayne Coughlin, healing

Tue 10 Mar **Feria**
9:40am HC **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC **Mass:** Camille Blaney, RIP

Wed 11 Mar **Feria**
10:00am HC **Mass:** Paul Cox, healing
followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am

Thu 12 Mar **Feria**
8:20am STM **Mass:** All staff and students
9:40am PJ **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ **Mass:** Ann Ferry, RIP - 2nd Anniversary

Fri 13 Mar **Feria**
10:00am HC **Mass:** Lawson family, RIP
10:30am HC **Stations of the Cross**
7:00pm PJ **Mass:** Byrne family, RIP
7:30pm PJ **Stations of the Cross**

Sat 14 Mar **Feria**
10:00am PJ **Mass:** Lorraine Norris, healing
followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am

Vigil Mass: Tom Treacy, RIP

Sun 15 Mar **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Mothering Sunday and Laetare Sunday
SPUC Annual Appeal

9:00am HC **Mass:** Kelly family, RIP
11:00am PJ **Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

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



First Holy Communion candidates

Please continue to pray for our young children who have made their first Confession and continue on their journey towards First Holy Communion on 6th/7th June.

Parish General Meeting today, Sunday, at SsP&J

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

There will be refreshments too!

This **Mothering Sunday** will see the launch of the **Catholic Women's Organisation (CWO)** in **NBCC**. If you wish to enquire about this group, contact **Uju** on 07908 444 800.

All **Altar Servers** are reminded and encouraged to be present and participate in the **Easter Triduum rehearsal** scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 17th March in Holy Cross church at 6:30 pm.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Marguerite Violet Walsh, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be held at Holy Cross church this coming 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.

Responsorial Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts."

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 Walkling-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walklinglea@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](https://www.facebook.com/northbedfordcatholiccommunity)

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



Catholic Charismatic Renewal
WATER OF LIFE
 PRAYER GROUP




Join us

An evening of praise and worship, Bible reflection, intercessory prayer and fellowship

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY | 7:00 P.M.

MATTHEW 18:20

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Holy Cross Church Parish Hall
 355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP

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



SVP St Vincent de Paul Society
 Taking Concern into Action

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

The **Chisen Foundation** will be holding their annual **Easter Raffle** on Sunday, 29th March.

Tickets will be on sale in the narthex before and after 11:00am Mass at SsP&J on 22nd March. Tickets will be drawn after Mass on 29th March.

All proceeds go towards the building costs of the **The House Of Hope in Ghana**, which will be a centre for children with special needs and a place of care and support for their families.

Many thanks to you all for your continuing support.

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/

NORTH BEDFORD CHURCHES TOGETHER

Palm Sunday Stroll

Sunday 29 March 2026 at 2.30pm

From St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Bedford to Holy Cross Church

Family fun and storytelling as we walk

Light refreshments

For information email families@stmarysgoldington.uk

The weekly **Pray and Play** continues in **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 please contact Fr Alex.

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.

Service to others takes many forms in our churches. It can be as high-profile as Priests, Deacons, Extraordinary Ministers and Readers, but 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.

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 **NBCC Youth Group** meets monthly on the **second Friday of each month** at 6:30pm in Holy Cross hall.

There is a **Lent Resources** page on the diocesan website: northamptondiocese.org/lent-resources/

CELEBRATE Family Activity Pack for Lent including a Lent game this year - **Journey to Easter Joy**.
 See: celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks

St Thomas More Secondary School Presents 'Tommy's Got Talent' on Wednesday, 11th March

The show starts at 7:00pm

Tickets are £5

A night of singing, dancing, stand up comedy and more!

40 pence for 40 days
 By giving up 40p for 40 days through Lent please support local individuals and families facing hardship this Easter. bedford.foodbank.org.uk/2026/02/09/40p-for-40-days-lent-2026/

National Board of Catholic Women
A Faith Journey Through Life's Seasons is a year-long webinar series designed to meet women where they truly are, in the real circumstances and rhythms of life, and to explore how God walks with us in every season.

On Saturday, 28th March, Emma O'Connell will discuss **'Embracing New Life – Pregnancy, Birth & Motherhood in Faith'**. This is free to book via their website. nbcw.co.uk/event/embracing-new-life-pregnancy-birth-motherhood-in-faith/

Easter Flowers - Parishioners are invited to contribute towards the Easter flowers in memory of a deceased loved one. The names of those to whom flowers have been dedicated will be placed beside the altar in both churches over Eastertide and a petition will be added to the intercessions at each Sunday Mass. Sponsorship envelopes, available in each narthex, should be returned by Monday, 23rd March.



doug-kelley-Easter Lilies-unsplash

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.

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
 1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday at Holy Cross parish hall


