



The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph

2026

Fourth Week in Lent

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; SJR - St John Rigby

Sat 14 Mar	Vigil of the Fourth Sunday in Lent
5:30pm HC	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: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Mon 16 Mar	Feria
10:00am PJ	Mass: Gary Stewart, RIP
Tue 17 Mar	St Patrick, Bishop and Missionary - Feast
	Patron of Ireland
9:40am HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	Mass: Allan Bruce, RIP
Wed 18 Mar	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Henry and Muriel Simon, RIP <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:00am</i>
Thu 19 Mar	St Joseph, husband of the BVM - Solemnity
8:20am STM	Mass: All staff and students
9:40am PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	Mass: Hikmat Tabchi, RIP
1:30pm SJR	Lenten Reconciliation Service
Fri 20 Mar	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Ann and Anthony Byrne, RIP
10:30am HC	Stations of the Cross
7:00pm PJ	Mass: Fr Christopher & Fr Wayne - intention
7:30pm PJ	Stations of the Cross
Sat 21 Mar	Feria
10:00am PJ	Mass: Fr Liam Castle - intention <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Sun 22 Mar	Fifth Sunday in Lent
9:00am HC	Mass: Bertie Hill, RIP
11:00am PJ	Mass: Maureen and Andy Connelly 68 th Wedding anniversary

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

Holy Week in our parishes

Palm Sunday, 29th March

5:30pm: HC - Vigil Mass

9:00am: HC - Palm Sunday with the reading of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

11:00pm: PJ - Palm Sunday with the reading of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Wednesday of Holy Week, 1st April

12:00pm: **Diocesan Chrism Mass** at the Cathedral

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

10:00am: PJ - Morning Prayer (Lauds)

7:30pm: HC - Maundy Thursday Mass followed by The Watch until midnight

Good Friday, 3rd April

11:00am: HC - Family Stations of the Cross

3:00pm: HC - The Passion of the Lord

3:00pm: PJ - The Passion of the Lord

7:00pm: PJ - Stations of the Cross

Good Friday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence from eating meat

Easter Celebrations

Holy Saturday, 4th April

10:30am: PJ - Morning Prayer (Lauds)

7:00pm: HC - Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

8:30pm: PJ - Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday, 5th April

9:00am: HC - Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

11:00am: PJ - Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

Lenten Penitential Service

On Tuesday, 24th March, there is a **Lenten Penitential Service** at HC from 7:00 - 8:00pm and on Saturday, 28th March at PJ after Mass from 10:40am.

This Sunday, 15th March - the **Fourth Sunday of Lent**, we welcome the EYS and KS1 to join staff at the 11:00am Mass in Ss Philip and James Church.

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:

HC Vigil: His goodness shall follow me always;
'til the end of my days.

Sunday: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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



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





Family Stations of the Cross
 Friday 3rd April 2026
 11am – Good Friday

The stations of the cross will be outside weather dependant

Refreshments after in the parish room
 Arts and crafts for the youth



Holy Cross
 11am

North Bedford Catholic Community

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

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@stmarysbedford.org.uk

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 PJ

Divine Chaplet, Rosary, cup of tea. What's not to like, eh?

Holy Cross parish office will be closed on Monday, 23rd March and Thursday, 26th March.

on 22nd March. Tickets 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 for your continuing support.

Tickets will be on sale in the narthex before and after 11:00am Mass at PJ

This **Mothers 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.

Parish General Meeting 2026, at SsP&J

Fr Alex called together all the organisations, groups and societies that help our joint parishes fulfill their baptismal promises. Twenty-four groups attended and there will a summary of their contributions in the next newsletter. **Fr Alex** and the Parish Pastoral Council thank everyone for their participation.

A full presentation will be published in due course.

We assure all our **mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, Godmothers and all women** who exercise a mothering role, of our profound prayers and loving appreciation as we respectfully honour them today. We ask for the continual support and intercession of our mother Mary on them. May God continue to bless all our mothers.

See previous newsletters for the details of:

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/

40 pence for 40 days
 By giving up 40p for 40 days through Lent please support local individuals and families facing hardship this Easter.

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

We give thanks to God for the gift of 70 beautiful years given to **Louisa Mukangwa Anaenis**. May God grant her strength for the journey ahead and bless her with continued health, peace, and joy.

Happy 70th Birthday **Louisa**.

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



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 week, 23rd March.

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.

Collections for our joint parishes in February

Holy Cross:	£1623.73	Open plate and envelopes
Ss P&J:	£1184.47	Open plate and envelopes

Figures do not include standing orders or donations made by Dona machines in the narthexes or by the QR codes.

St Vincent's

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


