



The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Eucharist

2026

First Week in Easter

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

Sat 4 Apr	Vigil of Easter Sunday
7:00pm HC	Easter Vigil
8:30pm PJ	Easter Vigil
Sun 5 Apr	Easter Sunday
9:00am HC	Mass: Missa pro populo
11:00am PJ	Mass: Barbara Dainton, RIP
Mon 6 Apr	Monday of the Easter Octave
10:00am PJ	Mass: Rita Gill, RIP
Tue 7 Apr	Tuesday of the Easter Octave
9:40am HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	Mass: Mary Frances Curtin, RIP
Wed 8 Apr	Wednesday of the Easter Octave
10:00am HC	Mass: Edith Teasdale, RIP <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am</i>
Thu 9 Apr	Thursday of the Easter Octave
9:40am PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	Mass: Baby Oliver Woodcock, RIP
Fri 10 Apr	Friday of the Easter Octave
10:00am HC	Mass: Sue Dobson - healing
7:00pm PJ	Mass: Anna Slawek - healing
7:40pm PJ	Stations of the Resurrection *
Sat 11 Apr	Saturday of the Easter Octave
10:00am PJ	Mass: Mel and Ciaran Woodcock - healing <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Irene Baker, RIP
Sun 12 Apr	Divine Mercy Sunday
9:00am HC	Mass: Missa pro populo
11:00am PJ	Mass: Teresa and Douglas Rentle, RIP - anniv

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

Responsorial Psalm: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

Eucharistic Adoration and the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is on Wednesdays in HC after Mass until 11:00am and on Saturdays in SsP&J after Mass until 11:15am.

Easter Greetings!
HAPPY EASTER!
Alleluia! He is Risen!



Fr Alex, Fr Richard, Deacon Crispin and Deacon Tony wish you all a wonderful Easter celebration.

We continue to offer our prayerful support and best wishes to everyone during this Eastertide. **Fr Alex**

gettyimages.com

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who has journeyed with Christ and His church throughout the season of Lent and to all who participated in the Masses and other liturgical activities from the beginning of Holy Week - Palm Sunday. We are also impressed with the good turn out. May the glory of the risen Christ shine in your hearts and homes. Pictures from the Palm Sunday celebration can be found on our parish website.

We also sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed towards the success of our Liturgical celebrations during the Easter Triduum: the Choir, organists, Readers, stewards, flowers arrangers, cleaners, sacristans, Easter Garden decorators, those that helped with veiling and unveiling the crucifixes and statues and the Easter Fire. We thank the secretaries, Altar Servers, Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharistic, to mention but a few. May God bless you all!

To all who have expressed one form of kindness or another, your encouragement and kind words, even your support and contributions to the Easter offerings, cards and gifts, we really appreciate all that and will remain ever grateful.

* **The Stations of the Resurrection** also known by the Latin name **Via Lucis** (Way of Light), are a form of Christian devotion, encouraging meditation upon the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and some of the Resurrection appearances and other episodes recorded in the New Testament

Please continue to pray for the repose of the soul of **Dr Joy Matheiken, RIP**, whose funeral Mass will be in St Joseph's on Thursday, 9th April at 10:45am followed by burial at Norse Road Cemetery at 12:00pm, midday.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Tony Gros, RIP** whose funeral liturgy will be at Holy Cross church on Wednesday, 15th April at 12:30pm.

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 (Thursday ONLY: 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



Sponsored Spiritual Triathlon

The spiritual triathlon is back, so let's get ready to **listen, walk and pray** with the Lord, whilst building our united communities. Funds raised go towards programmes within our parish ministry.

Date: 16th May 2026
Start time: 9:30am
At: SS Philip & James

Please bring a labelled packed lunch. Drinks and cakes will be provided after the event.

Sign up information - the sign up sheet and sponsor forms are in the narthex of both churches. Please sign up by 05th April 2026. Any questions please contact Clare, Catechist.HolyCross@northamptondiocese.org



ALL WELCOME TO JOIN - UNDER 12'S PARTICIPATING MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES.



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



Recommended for children due to enrol onto the next sacramental preparation programme

THE PRAY AND PLAY NBCC SUMMER CAMP 2026

FUN, FAITH & FRIENDSHIP!

Limited spaces

Secure place with £5 deposit.

Please contact Clare at -

catechist.holycross@northamptondiocese.org

Monday 20th July - Friday 24th July 2026

Fun filled week of extended Pray & Play!

Including prayer, catechism, games, singing, dancing, crafts, Mass, performances and more!

For children aged 6-12 yrs

Venue: Holy Cross Church

Fee: £25 + sibling £15

Mon - Thurs 9am-12.30pm

Friday 9am - 3pm Family day!



The **Chisen Trustees** would like to thank everyone who supported the **Easter Raffle**. A magnificent £300 was raised, all of which will go towards the building of the *House of Hope in Ghana*.

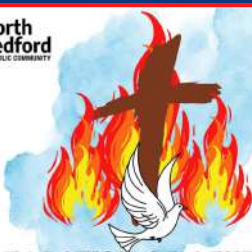
1st Prize was won by *Leah Rivas*

2nd Prize was won by *Dorothy Bartram*

Please be aware that **Holy Cross parish office** will be closed Monday, 6th April. Open again on Thursday, 9th April.

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 on Monday at 1:45pm. Divine Chaplet, Rosary, cup of tea. What's not to like, eh! 😊



CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST

We are looking for people to share their talents and perform at our Pentecost celebration. You can showcase your culture through music, dance, poetry and many more ways. Please contact Clare via email catechist.holycross@northamptondiocese.org by 26th April. Details of the event are below, there will be a full rehearsal on Saturday 16th May at 2.30pm at Holy Cross parish hall.

SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2026

1PM

HOLY CROSS PARISH HALL

355 GOLDINGTON ROAD, BEDFORD, MK41 0DP



Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday - 12th April

St Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun in the 1930s received several visions from Our Lord concerning the mercy and graces Our Lord wished to pour out upon the human race who hoped and trusted in his divine mercy. In one vision **Our Lord** declared to *St Faustina*, 'Whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment', (*St Faustina's diary 300*), and also, 'On this day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. Let

no soul fear to draw near to Me, even its sins be as scarlet. (*St Faustina's diary 699*)

Our Lord wanted this specific day to be the first Sunday directly after Easter Sunday. *Pope St John Paul II* later declared this Sunday as **Divine Mercy Sunday** and promulgated its respective liturgy to be celebrated. The time the liturgy to be celebrated was to be 3:00pm, the hour of Our Lord's crucifixion.

Liturgy of Divine Mercy on the **Second Sunday of Easter**, will be held at Ss Philip and James, as follows;

2.30pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Deacon Tony will then lead the rosary with the **Glorious Mysteries**

Fr Alex and Fr Richard will celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.

3:00pm: Deacon Tony will lead the **Divine Mercy chaplet** in which the choir will act as cantor. Leaflets will be provided to allow the congregation to participate.

3.30pm: Conclusion of the liturgy, with the **Divine Praises**, (conclusion of Exposition and Adoration) - Deacon Tony.

Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James Repositories

The Repositories are open before and after their respective Masses on Sundays.

See previous newsletters for the details of:

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/

Next Sunday, 12th April, **Krystyna Sykes** begins her **Camino pilgrimage**. Throughout her journey, **Krystyna** will be dedicating each day to specific prayer intentions. She will hold **Holy Cross Parish** in her prayers on Wednesday, 15th April, followed by **Ss Philip and James** on Thursday, 16th April. **Krystyna** is deeply grateful for the support of all parishioners. Donations for the SVP will be gratefully received until the end of April.

Collections for our joint parishes in March

Holy Cross:	£2360.11	Open plate and envelopes
Ss P&J:	£1862.83	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
Together, we can make a difference
1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday
Holy Cross Church

