



Third Week in Easter

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 school

Sat 18 Apr	Vigil of the Third Sunday of Easter
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Dan and Gertie O'Connor, RIP
Sun 19 Apr	Third Sunday of Easter
9:00am HC	Mass: Stella Good - healing
11:00am PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
1:00pm PJ	Baptism: Matteo and Alessio Marshall, Santino and Inesso Martucci-Thompson Celebrant: Deacon Tony Quinlan
Mon 20 Apr	Feria
10:00am PJ	Mass: Natalie Eddson, RIP
Tue 21 Apr	Feria
9:40am HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	Mass: Hilary Carter, RIP
Wed 22 Apr	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Fr Wayne Coughlin - healing <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am</i>
Thu 23 Apr	St George, Martyr - Solemnity Patron of England
8:20am STM	Mass: All staff and parents
9:40am PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	Mass: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Fri 24 Apr	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Tony Commons, RIP
7:00pm PJ	Mass: Dr Joy Matheiken, RIP
Sat 25 Apr	St Mark, Evangelist - Feast
10:00am PJ	Mass: Susie - healing <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
11:00am HC	Baptism: Lorenzo Gabriel Xavier Massud Celebrant: Deacon Tony Quinlan
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: James, John, Robert and Christopher Donnelly, RIP
Sun 26 Apr	Fourth Sunday of Easter
	Diocesan Priests' Training Fund
9:00am HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro Populo</i>
11:00am PJ	Mass: Dainton family - in their grief

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

International Workers' Day

Friday, 1st May is **International Workers' Day**, honouring workers, labour rights, and social justice movements. We will be using this opportunity to celebrate and appreciate all the voluntary workers in our united parish. We will celebrate Mass in the evening on that Friday at 7:00pm in Ss Philip and James to thank God for our voluntary workers and pray that God will continue to bless them. Our voluntary workers do a lot behind the scenes and we appreciate all of that. There will be light refreshments in the parish room afterwards.

In May we also have **May Devotions**. The Catholic church has a long-standing tradition of dedicating the entire month of **May** to the **Blessed Virgin Mary**. It is a month marked by special acts of love, honour, and veneration towards Our Lady. According to Catholic sources, May has been associated with Mary since at least the Middle Ages, when Christians offered flowers and songs to her during springtime. The devotion became formally established in the 18th century, especially through the influence of the Jesuits, and was later strongly encouraged by popes such as Paul VI in *Mense Maio*. Key elements of **May Devotions** include: daily Marian Prayers, the rosary, special hymns, litanies and Marian processions, etc.

The online **Rosary Group** meets from 8:00am to 8:20am weekdays on Zoom. ID: 833 1504 6319 Password: Rosary

Feast of Ss Philip and James

Sunday, 3rd of May is the feast of **Ss Philip and James**, our Patronal Festival, and there will be light refreshments and the cutting of a feast cake afterwards. We will also commence preparations for the celebration of the **60th Anniversary of the consecration of Ss Philip and James church** next year.

The **SMMM Congregation**, the order to which Fr Alex and Fr Richard belong, is holding their biannual retreat in Scotland from Monday, 4th to Friday 8th May. During that time please consult the newsletter for any relevant changes to the liturgical calendar.

Next weekend there will be a retiring collection for the **diocesan Priests' Training Fund**.

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.

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, you will show me the path of life.

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 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**

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



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!



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

The 2026 Life in the Spirit Seminars

The Seminars are being run by the **Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal team**. This year the seminars are **online** so more in the diocese can attend.

The six sessions are:

- **The Fathers Loving Plan** – Tuesday, 28th April
- **The Joy Of The Gospel** – Tuesday 5th May
- **The Gift Of The Spirit** – Tuesday 12th May
- **Unwrapping God's Gift** – 19th May
- **Encountering the Holy Spirit (Part B)** – 26th May
- **Living In The Spirit** – 2nd June

The **Baptism in The Holy Spirit retreat day** will take place **IN-PERSON** on Pentecost Eve, Saturday, 23rd May at 11:00am in Our Lady, Help of Christians, 52 Castle Street, Chapel Langley, Luton LU1 3AG

Presented by international speakers: David Payne, Michelle Moran, Charles Whitehead and Jenny Baker; the sessions last 30 minutes and include testimonies from laity and clergy. For more information go to:

northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2026/

David Goodbourn Lecture 2026 - In the midst of the violence and suffering in the Holy Land, **Fr David Neuhaus** will be giving the **David Goodbourn Lecture**, entitled **Palestine-Israel: A Catholic Perspective**. This lecture, sponsored by **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**, is on Zoom, Thursday, 14th May from 7:00 - 9:00pm. More info: ctbi.org.uk/event/david-goodbourn-lecture-2026/

Called and Equipped 2026-27

Want to go deeper in your faith? Is now the time to take the next step? Our year-long **Called and Equipped discipleship course** begins this September, offering a foundation in Catholic teaching and a journey of faith formation with a like-minded community. This course is for anyone active in parish life or coming into ministry. Find out more here:

northamptondiocese.org/called-equipped/ or sign up to introductory webinars: tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese

Ss Philip and James new sanctuary carpet appeal

We are replacing the faded carpet on the sanctuary and Kathy Goodwin is addressing the SsP&J congregation this Sunday with an appeal to fund this. Parishioners may sponsor a one-metre-square at £20 per donation by filling in the sheet in the narthex and placing their cash offering in an envelope in the collection plate or by using the Dona machine/QR code.

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



Mary's Meals envelopes are available in our narthexes. The charity serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. Please place any foreign currency you may have left over from your travels in the envelopes which may be returned to Margaret Wells or any of the Welcomers.

St Vincent's

Together, we can make a difference

1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday in Holy Cross Church

