



Fifth 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; STM - St Thomas More school

Sat	2 May	Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Easter
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Sun	3 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter
		Ss Philip and James, Apostles - Feast
		Patronal Festival
9:00am	HC	Mass: Carli family, RIP
11:00am	PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
1:00pm	PJ	Baptism: Emily Maria Josefina Gimenez Celebrant: Deacon Crispin Walking-Lea
Mon	4 May	The English Martyrs - Feast
10:00am	PJ	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tue	5 May	Feria
		National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse
9:40am	HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	HC	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Wed	6 May	Feria
10:00am	HC	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion <i>followed by Eucharistic Adoration to 11:00am</i>
Thu	7 May	Feria
8:20am	STM	Mass: All Staff and Parents
9:40am	PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	PJ	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri	8 May	Feria
10:00am	HC	No liturgy
7:00pm	PJ	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Sat	9 May	Feria
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Betty and Leslie Foster, RIP <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Tony Gros, RIP
Sun	10 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter
		Diocesan Bishops' Fund
9:00am	HC	Mass: Colin Bolster, RIP
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Godlove Enongene and family

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.

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

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

National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse

This Tuesday, 5th May is the annual day of prayer for the victims and survivors of abuse.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

The theme for this year looks at the scourge of domestic abuse which causes pain and fear that prevent its victims from living the life Jesus came to bring.

The **Congregation of the Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy**, the order to which Fr Alex and Fr Richard belong, is holding their biennial retreat in Scotland from this Monday, 4th to Friday 8th May. Deacon Tony will be celebrating the **Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion** during the weekdays Please see the liturgical calendar (left). There is **no liturgy on Friday morning** as Deacon Tony is leading a funeral.

Holy Cross parish office is closed on **Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May**.

Eucharistic Adoration is on Wednesdays in HC after *Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion* until 11:00am and on Saturday in SsP&J after morning *Mass*. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is on Saturday ONLY, at SsP&J to 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

(Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971

Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org

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

You may still sign up

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

OVERALL TARGET - £600 -
Every pound plays a part
Thank you for your support



Full rehearsal 16th May

CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2026
9am MASS AT HOLY CROSS &
11am MASS AT SS PHILIP & JAMES

We are looking for volunteers to read the bidding prayers in different languages. Alternatively, you may wish to be involved in the music for the Mass.

We are also looking for volunteers to cook their national dish for our celebration at 1pm in Holy Cross parish hall. If you can help with the Liturgy or the food, please sign up after Mass, or contact Kathy at kathy.e.goodwin@gmail.com

See previous newsletters for details:

The **Life in the Spirit Seminars** are every Tuesday, at 7:00pm on Zoom until 2nd June. You may take part in a group setting in Holy Cross parish hall.

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/

"Pray and Play" NBCC Summer Camp is in Holy Cross church from Monday, 20th July. All places are filled.

Called and Equipped 2026-27

This course is for anyone active in parish life or coming into ministry. See: northamptondiocese.org/called-equipped/

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

19th - 25th September 2026, £845 pp



Spiritual Director: Fr. Alex Ibe SMMM

£845

Sharing in twin or double room (single room +£210)

TRAVELLING

19th - 25th Sep. '26
7 days, London Luton with easyJet

HOW TO BOOK

Full details and booking form here www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1183
Deposit of £300 to confirm place.
Booking deadline 25th May 2026 to get the best price possible!

Organised by Mrs Hetty Okonji, tel. 07590731488

INCLUDED

- Return flight between London Luton and Split (with easyJet)
- 6 nights at Hotel Marconi, Medjugorje, 4*, or similar standard
- Half board (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Check-in luggage 23 kg + small hand carry
- Transfers between airport and hotel
- Executive coach for touring
- Professional English-speaking guide throughout
- UK Airport Taxes and Government charges
- Personalised travel pack for each pilgrim including hymn booklet, name badge and lanyard, luggage tag, general information booklet, flight information sheet, boarding passes, where applicable

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Single room (limited availability), £210 for 6 nights
- Tips & Gratuities of £16 pp to be added to your invoice. Compulsory. Paid directly to guide, driver and hotel staff.



FULL DETAILS AND BOOKING FORM AT WWW.ALLSAINTSTRAVEL.CO.UK/MJ1183



All Saints Travel

web: www.allsaintstravel.co.uk
email: info@allsaintstravel.co.uk
phone: 01793 881168

Light of Truth

The next two-year **Light of Truth Certificate** begins in September. It prepares you for catechetical work in the parish, school, diocese; understanding and communicating the Catholic faith to adults, young people and children in face of cultural challenges; and teaching, witnessing to and accompanying others in their journey of faith.

See the website: lightoftruth.uk/certificate

Blaze - May 2026

NYMO, the youth ministry, are hosting their event, **Blaze South**, at St Michael's School, Aylesbury on Saturday, 23rd May. **Blaze** gives attendees the opportunity to join together and cement what they have explored in their confirmation programmes. The event will feature drama, music, workshops, prayer and Mass. There is also a chance to ask questions about Confirmation, the Church, and God. See the website for more information: nymo.org/blaze-2026/

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 their respective Masses on Sundays.

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.

Hospital Mass

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, Mass will be celebrated at 2:00pm in the **'Prayer Room'** of South Wing hospital. If you are a patient and feel well enough to attend, or if you are a staff member or visitor, please join us for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Mass.

If you are an in-patient, please feel free to contact Deacon Tony - 01234 950 453 (or via email). Deacon Tony can visit you in hospital, particularly on those days.

The full itinerary is on the posters

Day 1, Saturday, 19th September: UK - Croatia - Medjugorje

Day 2, Sunday: Medjugorje - Apparition Hill

Day 3, Monday: Medjugorje to Cenacolo

Day 4, Tuesday: Free day (do what you want!)

Day 5, Wednesday: Medjugorje to Surmanci

Day 6, Thursday: Medjugorje - Mt Krizevac - Cross Mount

Day 7, Friday: Medjugorje - Airport - UK

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

Together, we can make a difference

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

355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP

