



Sixth Week in Easter

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 2

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: SJR - St John Rigby school

Sat 9 May **Vigil of the Sixth Sunday of Easter**
5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** Tony Gros, RIP

Sun 10 May **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
Diocesan Bishop's Fund
9:00am HC **Mass:** Colin Bolster, RIP
11:00am PJ **Mass:** Godlove Enongene and family

Mon 11 May **Feria**
10:00am PJ **Mass:** Betty and Leslie Foster, RIP

Tue 12 May **Feria**
9:40am HC **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC **Mass:** Rachel Dempsey, RIP

Wed 13 May **Feria**
10:00am HC **Mass:** David Cross, RIP
followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am
7:00pm HC **Vigil Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

Thu 14 May **The Ascension of the Lord - Solemnity**
Holy Day of Obligation
8:20am STM **Mass:** All Staff and Parents
9:40am PJ **Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ **Mass:** Paul Cox - healing
1:30pm SJR **Mass:** All Staff and Parents

Fri 15 May **Feria**
10:00am HC **Mass:** Jan, Miecia and Zyguh, RIP
7:00pm PJ **Mass:** Baby, safe arrival - Sirblin Henson

Sat 16 May **Feria**
10:00am PJ **Mass:** Lorraine Norris - healing
followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am
5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

Sun 17 May **Seventh Sunday of Easter**
World Communications Sunday
9:00am HC **Mass:** Pauline Tucker, RIP
11:00am PJ **Mass:** Fr Liam Castle - intention

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

The Solemnity of Ascension

We celebrate the **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord** this Thursday, a **Holy Day of Obligation** marking forty days after Easter, when Christ was taken up into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father. This feast invites us to renew our hope in the promise of eternal life and to continue Christ's mission with faith and courage.

Masses for the solemnity will be celebrated as follows:

Wednesday, 13th Vigil Mass in HC - 7:00 pm

Thursday, 14th Mass at St Thomas More school - 8:20am

Thursday, 14th Mass at SsP&J - 10:00 am

Thursday, 14th Mass at St John Rigby school - 1:30 pm.

All parishioners are warmly encouraged to join us.

Thank You: I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all parishioners for your prayers during our just-concluded five days retreat. I also thank Deacon Tony for doing the *Liturgy of Word*. It was a success. This time of silence and spiritual renewal was a grace-filled opportunity to reflect, pray, and deepen our commitment as religious to the ministry entrusted to us. Please be assured that you were held in prayer throughout those days. We are back with grateful hearts and look forward to continuing our shared journey of faith. **Fr Alex**



Ss Philip and James Feast

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us last Sunday to celebrate the feast of Saints Philip and James. The parish hall was filled with parishioners as they had their fill of biscuits, cakes, tea, coffee and squash after we had celebrated a splendid Mass. Your presence and participation made the celebration a true expression of our parish's faith and unity.

After Mass, **Fr Alex** launched a year of preparation for the **60th Anniversary of the Dedication of SsP&J**, calling for a wealth of memories, stories and photographs from those who have worshipped here through the years.

There will be a retiring collection this weekend for the **Diocesan Bishop's Fund**.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** and **Eucharistic Adoration** will be on Wednesdays at HC after Mass until 11:00am and every Saturday until 11:15am in SsP&J.

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 ODP

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



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 esovlet)
- 6 nights at Hotel Marconi, Medjugorje, 4*, or similar standard
- Half board (breakfast 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 Leases 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 (optional)
- Single room (limited availability), £210 for 6 nights
- Tips & Gratuities of £15 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 861166

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. See: 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 explore. See the website for more information: nymo.org/blaze-2026/

Novena to the Holy Spirit: Join us as we prepare for Pentecost by praying the **nine-day novena**, asking the Spirit to renew our parish and our hearts. It will begin on **Friday, 15th May** and it continues through to **Saturday, 23rd May**, the eve of Pentecost. This beautiful nine-day devotion invites us to open our hearts to the gifts, fruits, and renewing power of the Spirit.



Krystyna's Camino Journey - Update: On Friday, 17th April Krystyna completed the 120km walk from **Ferrol to Santiago de Compostela**. She would like to thank everyone who supported her throughout the training, fundraising and event organising. It was a challenging six days but the prayers and messages of encouragement, and sponsorship really kept her going - especially up the hills! Please see the poster at the back of each church along with The Pilgrim's Prayer Card. Total raised for the SVP will be published soon!

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

