

Our Parish Family:
Cherishing the Past,
Celebrating the Present,
Embracing the Future.



North Bedford
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The North Bedford
Catholic Community of
Holy Cross Church and
Ss Philip and James Church

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus

2026

Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time

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 school

Sat	18 Jul	Vigil of Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Patrick McGill, RIP - anniversary
Sun	19 Jul	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	HC	Mass: Michael Simmonds - 90 th birthday
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Miriam's 4 th birthday
Mon	20 Jul	Feria
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Private intention
Tue	21 Jul	Feria
9:40am	HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	HC	Mass: Ann McCullan, RIP
Wed	22 Jul	St Mary Magdalen
		Apostle to the Apostles - Feast
10:00am	HC	Mass: Natalie Eddeson, RIP
Thu	23 Jul	St Bridget of Sweden, Religious
		Patroness of Europe - Feast
9:40am	PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Wellbeing journey mercies for Ronke and family
Fri	24 Jul	Feria
10:00am	HC	Mass: Bill and Mary Makin - intention
7:00pm	PJ	No liturgy
Sat	25 Jul	St James, Apostle - Feast
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Stephanie Quinlan and family <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: Dilys Willis, RIP - 5 th anniversary
Sun	26 Jul	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	HC	Mass: Eileen Ethel Watts, RIP
11:00am	PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
1:00pm	PJ	Baptism: Benjamin Simon Paylor Celebrant: Deacon Crispin Walkling-Lea

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

Responsorial Psalm: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

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



10th Anniversary
of Ordination

Fr Richard, Deacon Tony and Deacon Crispin thank all those who attended the service and celebrated Mass with them on their 10th Jubilee.

Special thanks go to the Social Committee, the PPC and those who helped Mike Chappell set up the gazebos. Also everyone who contributed or served different

dishes, served drinks and those who gave presents and cards.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

There will be an online presentation next **Sunday, 26th July at 7:00pm** exploring the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to six children in the village of Medjugorje in Bosnia. The apparition continues to the present day. Each year, thousands of pilgrims go there to pray, and many receive spiritual renewal and other graces. We invite you to join and find out more, especially if you are considering joining our parish pilgrimage to this special place. The presentation will last about 30 minutes. Please email Kathy Goodwin at kathy.goodwin@gmail.com to indicate your interest and receive the Zoom link.

All existing **Altar Servers** and those who made their **First Holy Communion** recently who would like to join the Altar Servers are encouraged to participate in the **Training and Pizza** gathering to welcome new members. This training and welcome will be on Wednesday, 2nd September at 7:00pm in Holy Cross church. We will also start rehearsing for the **Confirmation Mass** on Friday, 11th September. All Altar Servers are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Josephine Eeles, RIP**, whose funeral Mass will be held in Ss Philip and James church this Wednesday, 22nd July at 2:30pm.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Dunster, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy is on Thursday, 30th July at 2:00pm in Holy Cross church. The family have asked for *no attendance* at the crematorium.

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 Walkling-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walklinglea@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



PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

19th - 25th September 2026, £845 pp

Five places left!

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 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 £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: 01753 881186

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

Monday, 20th to Friday, 24th July

THE PRAY AND PLAY

NBCC SUMMER CAMP 2026

FUN, FAITH & FRIENDSHIP!

Come along and join the **Marian Procession** after Mass on the Friday. Please say some special prayers for the children attending, their families and the many volunteers running the camp. This will be a special time for the parish children.

Archbishop Richard Moth writes to all in the diocese

See: northamptondiocese.org/uncategorized/letter/

Mass for Marriage and families

Saturday, 5th September at 12:00pm noon, in Northampton Cathedral, NN2 6AG. All are welcome. Please register online at northamptondiocese.org/events/mass-to-celebrate-marriage-and-family-life/

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

In his message for this year's **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**, Pope Leo XIV reminds us of God's faithful love for every person, especially in times of loneliness, frailty, or feeling forgotten. The Holy Father invites all parishioners, particularly the young, to rediscover the importance of visiting and caring for the elderly, whether grandparents, neighbours, or those who may have no one to visit them. A simple encounter can become a powerful sign of God's tenderness and presence. **Next Sunday, 26th July**

You may make donations by using the QR Codes here.

Holy Cross



Ss Philip and James



Diocese of Northampton Discernment Day for Vocations to the Priesthood

Are you wondering whether God may be calling you to the priesthood? If you are seeking to deepen your relationship with Christ and explore God's plan for your life, you are warmly invited to attend the *Discernment Day for Vocations to the Priesthood* on **Saturday, 8th August at 10:30am** *St Augustine Catholic Church, 1 Langcliffe Drive, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PL* Contact: Fr Pius, Vocations Director, Email: vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org or telephone: 01753 523147

Fr Richard's holiday

Fr Richard will travel to Nigeria this Tuesday, 21st July for his annual holiday to see family and friends. He will be back on Tuesday, 1st September. Please pray for his safe journey and please check the newsletter for any changes to weekday Masses. There will be no Masses on Monday mornings or Friday evenings

Confirmation Mass

The Area Dean, Fr Prasad Kasireddy, MSFS, will visit our united community to celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for our young people on Friday, 11th September at 7:00pm in Holy Cross church. We hope parishioners will attend Mass to support our young people in their faith journeys. We have 14 candidates and ask you to keep them and their families in your prayers.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation Programme AD 2026-2027

The North Bedford Catholic Community provides a united sacramental programme for the combined parishes of Holy Cross and Saints Philip and James. This is a very important time for the parents and all the family members. It will be a time of growth in your child's faith, and in your own faith, as you are expected to play an active and leading role in helping your child through every step of the way. The parish will assist you by providing classes for your child and sessions to aid you in helping your child, but you must commit wholeheartedly to this time of preparation and participate weekly in Sunday Mass and attend all the classes on the programme with your child.

If you would like to enrol your child onto the Sacramental Preparation Programme AD 2026-2027, enrolment forms are available in the narthex of both churches or online at northbedfordcatholics.org.uk. Completed and signed enrolment forms must be returned **with your child's original Baptism certificate** to Sheila Allen, Parish Secretary, parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or by post **on or before next Sunday, 26th July**. Please ensure you are available for all the dates specified before signing up to the program. Any questions please contact the catechist Clare Connolly via email, catechist.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or after Mass. We look forward to accompanying our children as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

Thank you for giving to **Sea Sunday**. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk.



St Vincent's

Together, we can make a difference
1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday

We break for the Summer on 21st and 28th July and re-open on 4th August

