

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/August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary 2026

Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

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	25 Jul	Vigil of Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
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
Mon	27 Jul	Feria
10:00am	PJ	No liturgy
Tue	28 Jul	Feria
9:40am	HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am	HC	Mass: Michael Simmonds, 90 th birthday
Wed	29 Jul	Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus - Memorial
10:00am	HC	Mass: Luke Quinlan - speedy recovery <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am</i>
Thu	30 Jul	Feria
10:00am	PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Fri	31 Jul	St Ignatius Loyola, Priest - Memorial
10:00am	HC	Mass: David Hayter, RIP
7:00pm	PJ	No liturgy
Sat	1 Aug	St Alphonsus Mary de'Liguori, Bishop and Doctor - Memorial
10:00am	PJ	Mass: Patricia McManus, RIP - 2 nd anniversary <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm	HC	Vigil Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Sun	2 Aug	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	HC	Mass: Thanksgiving for Altar servers
11:00am	PJ	Mass: Gillian Northing, RIP

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

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, how I love your law!

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

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

This Sunday, 26th July, Catholics across our Diocese will join the universal Church in celebrating the **Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**. Chosen by Pope Leo XIV, this year's theme, "I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15), reminds us of God's unfailing love for every person, especially those who may experience loneliness or isolation in later life. Established by Pope Francis in 2021, the Day also encourages us to cherish the wisdom, faith and witness of older generations. We are invited to reach out to grandparents and elderly people, ensuring they know they are loved, valued and never forgotten.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

There will be an online presentation this **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.

Zoom Meeting ID: 895 2644 6857 and Passcode: 258880.

All existing **Altar Servers** and those who made their **First Holy Communion** recently and 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.



Lead Chaplain, University of Bedfordshire

Congratulations to Luke Quinlan, who has been successfully promoted to the role of **Lead Chaplain for the University of Bedfordshire**.

May Our Lord bless him in his ministry to both students and staff.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Dunster, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy is this 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.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 (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

Still 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 23kg + 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: 01793 881100



North Bedford
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Parish Family Day and BBQ

...an opportunity to come together as a big family to celebrate, build, and strengthen our community life, fundraise for our youth's excursion/Fun Day, and give families a chance to enjoy each other outside of Mass.



Others include: burgers, hot dogs, salads, puds, etc. Bar is also available.

TICKETS
available after
mass from
1st AUGUST

ADULTS:

£5

12 YEARS AND UNDER:

£2.50

UNDER 5 YEARS:

FREE



SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2026

4PM TO 8PM

AT HOLY CROSS



INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOURS
AND LAPSE CATHOLICS
BACK IN A WELCOMING WAY.

... "Come, eat together, laugh together, pray together."

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Preparation Programme AD 2026-2027

If you would still like to enrol your child onto the Sacramental Preparation Programme AD 2026-2027, enrolment forms are still available in the narthex of both churches or online at northbedfordcatholics.org.uk, but completed and signed enrolment forms **MUST BE** returned **with your child's original Baptism certificate by this Sunday, 26th July**, to Sheila Allen, Parish Secretary, parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org
Please ensure you are available for all the dates specified before signing up to the programme.

Diocesan Discernment Day for Vocations to the Priesthood

Are you wondering whether God may be calling you to the priesthood? 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

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 each Monday at 1:45pm. Divine Chaplet, Rosary, cup of tea.

Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James Repositories

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

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.

St Vincent's

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

**We are closed for the Summer
and re-open on 4th August**



Mass for Marriage and families

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

Communion in the pew

Any parishioner with mobility problems may request communion be brought to them in their pew by speaking with a Welcomer when they arrive at Mass.

Pastoral visits/Communion to the Sick

If you know anyone who is unwell and is longing for a visit with communion, please contact the parish office with the person's name, address and phone number. Fr Alex, our Deacons, or an Extraordinary Minister will arrange to visit.

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.

You may make donations in the same way as if using the **DONA** machines in the narthexes of our churches. These machines and the **QR Codes** enable you to give to the weekly collection, donate for Votive candles, pay for your Repository purchases, and give to any retiring collections.

Holy Cross



Ss Philip and James

