



The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

2026

Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time

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 8 Aug	Vigil of Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Margaret Dunster, RIP
Sun 9 Aug	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am HC	Mass: Ken Blackburn, RIP - 2 nd anniversary
11:00am PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
1:00pm PJ	Baptism: Aria Nia Powell
	Celebrant: Deacon Crispin Walkling-Lea
Mon 10 Aug	St Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr - Feast
10:00am PJ	No liturgy
Tue 11 Aug	St Clare, Virgin - Memorial
9:40am HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	Mass: Health and wellbeing journey mercies for Ronke and family
Wed 12 Aug	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Chaplaincy Teams and all who they serve <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am</i>
Thu 13 Aug	Feria
10:00am PJ	No liturgy
Fri 14 Aug	St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr - Mem
10:00am HC	Mass: Noel Ing, RIP
7:00pm PJ	No liturgy
Sat 15 Aug	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00am PJ	Mass: Legion of Mary Recruitment <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Tom Treacy, RIP
Sun 16 Aug	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Legion of Mary Recruitment Appeal
9:00am HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
11:00am PJ	Mass: Legion of Mary Recruitment

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Confirmation programme 2027

Applications for our **Youth Confirmation Programme 2026/27** are now open. Collect an application form from the narthex of the church or download from our website:

northbedfordcatholics.org.uk/sections/2027-confirmation-programme
Forms should be returned to the parish office at Holy Cross.

The closing date for applications is Sunday, 6th September.

Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation, and **applicants will ordinarily be in academic year 9 or above.**

The other Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist) should have already been received, but we will accept baptised applicants that have not made their first reconciliation or communion, provided that they will be 18 or under at the time of Confirmation.

The programme of preparation will begin in October this year, leading to the Sacrament of Confirmation in September 2027.

Classes take place at 4:00pm on Saturdays during term-time, roughly every month. There is also a diocesan day retreat in the spring; **candidates need to be able to commit to attending all sessions.** Dates will be made available when the programme is finalised.

A donation of £40 is requested from all candidates to cover books/materials, administrative costs, and attendance at the Diocesan Blaze Retreat. This is payable at the commencement of the programme.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Crispin.

Next Sunday, members of the **Legion of Mary** will give a brief talk after the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses. This Marian organization is dedicated to prayer, service, and corporal works of mercy under the guidance and protection of Our Blessed Mother.

Parishioners - young and old - are warmly invited to learn more, join in prayer, and take part in this beautiful work of faith.

SsP&J Parish Office is closed until Tuesday, 18th August. The **Repository at HC** will also be closed during this period.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Philippa Anne Willis, RIP**. Her funeral liturgy will be at 1:00pm on Wednesday, 2nd September, in Holy Cross church.

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.

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 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 (closed until 18th August) 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 four 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/MJ1103
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/MJ1103



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."

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/

Week of Guided Prayer for those affected by Clergy abuse

The Jesuit Institute is offering a free online **Week of Guided Prayer for those affected by Clergy abuse in the church** from Sunday, 18th - Friday, 23rd October. Participation is free, with all sessions taking place online. See link below: jesuitinstitute.org/events/an-online-week-of-guided-prayer-for-those-affected-by-clergy-abuse-in-the-church-3



The Carmelite Friars

Deepen your prayer life through this inspiring ten-part online course, beginning this Thursday, 13th August. Meeting fortnightly on Thursdays via Zoom, each session explores a different Catholic prayer tradition, including Benedictine spirituality and the Rosary, helping participants grow in faith and develop a richer, more prayerful daily life. It is a little expensive at £350, but if you are interested you may register now for this enriching journey. carmelite.uk.net/courses/deepening-prayer-forms-and-traditions-of-prayer/

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

Ss Philip and James Repository

SsP&J Repository is open before and after Mass on Sunday.

Advance Notice of the SVP Raffle

This is an *advance notice* of the **SVP Raffle**. Tickets will be on sale during next weekend, 15th/16th August. The Raffle will take place during the weekend 22nd/23rd August. The reason for the advanced notice is **CASH**; please bring CASH.



St Vincent's
We are back!

Together, we can make a difference

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



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 rehearsals for the **Confirmation Mass** on Friday, 11th September. All Altar Servers are encouraged to attend.

Confirmation Mass 2026

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.

RCIA - Journey into the Catholic Faith

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process in the Catholic Church that prepares adults for the sacraments of **Baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist**. RCIA is open to people of different faith backgrounds who wish to become full members of the Catholic church. Are you - or someone you know - interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming Catholic? The programme will begin in September and runs in stages of study and prayer. Please email the parish office via parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or call 01234 353116 or 01234 352607 to register.

You may make donations in the same way as if using the **DONA** machines in the narthexes of our churches by use of these QR Codes.

Holy Cross



Ss Philip and James

