



The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

2026

Twenty-Third 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 5 Sep	Vigil of the Twenty-Third Sunday
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Byrne Family, RIP
Sun 6 Sep	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
11:00am PJ	Mass: Val and Thelma Lobhan, RIP
Mon 7 Sep	Feria
10:00am PJ	Mass: Colette Diamond, RIP
Tue 8 Sep	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Feast
9:40am HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	Mass: Eddie Hughes, RIP
Wed 9 Sep	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Gary Ball, RIP <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am</i>
Thu 10 Sep	Feria
8:20am STM	Mass: All Staff and Parents
9:40am PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	Mass: Hikmat Tabchi, RIP
Fri 11 Sep	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Derek Story, RIP
7:00pm HC	Mass: Brigitte McMahon, RIP
Sat 12 Sep	The Most Holy Name of Mary
10:00am PJ	Mass: Rita Gill, RIP <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Patrick Stapleton, special birthday
Sun 13 Sep	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
	Education Sunday
9:00am HC	Mass: Raj Sohun, RIP
11:00am PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>

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



Confirmation Mass 2026

Our Confirmation Mass will take place this Friday, 11th September at 7:00 pm in Holy Cross Church. Mass will be celebrated by our Pastoral Area Dean, Fr Prasad Kasireddy. Please keep all our candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive this very important Sacrament.

The Legion of Mary - All those interested in joining the **Legion of Mary**, or anyone who would like more information, should wait after the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses this Sunday, 6th September.

Education Sunday takes place annually, and this year is observed on the 13th September. Established by the Bishops in 1848, it is one of the oldest **Days of Special Prayer** in the liturgical calendar of England and Wales.

Please be aware that **HC parish office** will be closed from Monday, 7th to Monday, 14th September inclusive. Any urgent enquiries made be made with **SsP&J parish office**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Concetta 'Connie' Leone, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be this Monday, 7th September in Holy Cross church at 11:00am. A private family service will follow at the Crematorium.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Brigitte McMahon, RIP**, whose funeral Mass will be in Holy Cross church on Monday, 14th September at **12:30pm** and **NOT** from midday as previously stated in the newsletter. Mass is followed by a service in Norse Road Crematorium for all.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of **Eileen Bull, RIP**, who died recently and whose funeral will be in St Mary's Catholic church, Aspley Hill, Woburn Sands MK17 8NN on Friday, 18th September at 11:30am. If you need transport please text or phone Fiona on 07932 791 230. Details of the Wake are to be confirmed.

Responsorial Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'

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
Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org (Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971
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 (closed) 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



Catholic Charismatic Renewal
WATER OF LIFE
 PRAYER GROUP



Join us
 An evening of praise and worship, Bible reflection,
 intercessory prayer and fellowship

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY | 7:00 P.M.

MATTHEW 18:20

"For where two or three gather in my name,
 there am I with them."

Holy Cross Church Parish Hall
 355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP

All welcome Ages 13-18 
YOUTH Group meetings & events
2026/27

FRIDAYS monthly 6.30 – 8.00 PM
 Holy Cross Church Hall, 355 Goldington Road, Bedford

- 18th SEPTEMBER 26 (St Philip & St James)
- 9th OCTOBER 26
- 13th NOVEMBER 26
- 11th DECEMBER 26
- 12th FEBRUARY 27
- 7th MARCH 27 - Youth Mass Holy Cross 9am
- 12th MARCH 27
- 9th APRIL 27
- 14th MAY 27
- 11th JUNE 27
- 27th JUNE 27 - Youth Mass St Philip & St James 11am
- 9th JULY 27
- 21st NOVEMBER 27 - Feast of Christ the King Youth Mass (Holy Cross 9am; St Philip & St James 11am)

GAMES *FOOD* *FUN* *FRIENDSHIP* *PRAYER*

ALL FREE – SEE YOU THERE

For enquiries and further information, please contact
 commnbc@northamptondiocese.org

CALLING ALL YOUTH

Recommended for children doing or planning on
 sacramental preparation programme

PRAY AND PLAY
FUN, FAITH & FRIENDSHIP!



OUR MARIAN GROUP WILL BE STARTING AGAIN
MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

LOCATION: HOLY CROSS CHURCH
 DAY: EVERY MONDAY (TERM TIME ONLY)
 TIME: 6.20PM - 7.30PM
 AGE: 6-12 YEARS





A new Academic year and activities for our children are returning: **Children's Liturgy** during Sunday Masses; **Pray and Play** on Mondays; the monthly **Youth Group** on Fridays. For all ages; the monthly **Water of Life Prayer Group** on Tuesdays; after the weekly **Gospel Choir** on Tuesdays; the **Choir rehearsal for SsP&J** on Mondays; **SVP St Vincents** on Tuesdays; the **Bible Study Group** on Wednesdays; **Prego** on a Tuesday afternoon. There's lots on!

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**. The programme starts this month 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.

Confirmation programme 2027
 Applications for our **Youth Confirmation Programme 2026/27** should be returned to the parish office at Holy Cross.
Final date for applications is this Sunday, 6th September.

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 are open before and after their respective Masses on Sundays.

Volunteers for the 60th and 70th Anniversaries
 We are preparing to celebrate the **60th and 70th anniversaries of Ss Philip and James Parish and Holy Cross Parish, respectively, next year**. We invite you, the parishioners to help us organise this joyful milestone by providing memories of life in the parishes when they were young. Photographs and stories; but not only of the parishes individually but also from when we became a joint community. This is a long-term project.

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

Thank You Message – First Parish Family Fun-Day and BBQ
 A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who supported and made our **first Parish Family Fun-Day and BBQ** such a joyful and memorable success. It was wonderful to see our parish family - children, parents, grandparents, friends, and visitors - coming together in laughter, friendship, and community spirit. I'm deeply grateful to all our volunteers who worked tirelessly before, during and after the event: the social committee members, those who set up the gazebos, the Gospel choir, game coordinators, servers, cleaners, and every helping hand that contributed in big and small ways. Your efforts and dedication brought this day to life. Thank you to all who attended - your presence and support made the day truly special. We raised a total of **£706.73** This will go a long way towards **supporting our Youth programme**. God bless you all - **Fr Alex**

I equally appreciate the effort of those who participated in the pilgrimage visit to **St Francis of Assisi church, Shefford**. May God continue to bless you all, Amen.

Feast of Holy Cross
 On Monday, 14th September, we will celebrate the **Feast of Holy Cross**. However, on **Sunday, 13th September**, after 9:00am, there will be light refreshments and the cutting of the feast cake to mark this patronal solemnity. We will also commence preparations for next year's celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Holy Cross church's dedication.


RETROUVAILLE
 A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Marriage Help - Communication failure is a major cause of marital breakdown - thousands of couples have found **Retrouvaille** helped their relationship. **Retrouvaille** is not counselling but a programme to help married couples work through conflicts more effectively. We focus on helping restore trust and hope. **Bookings close 18th September.**
Retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 07887 296 983

St Vincent's
1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday in Holy Cross Church
355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP


