



Twenty-Fifth 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 19 Sep	Vigil of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Philip Holdershaw, RIP
Sun 20 Sep	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
	Evangelii Gaudium Sunday
9:00am HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
11:00am PJ	Mass: Peter Holdershaw, RIP
Mon 21 Sep	St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist - Feast
10:00am PJ	Mass: Anthony and Ann Byrne, RIP
Tue 22 Sep	Feria
9:40am HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	Mass: Lorraine Norris - healing
Wed 23 Sep	St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest - Memorial
10:00am HC	Mass: Victoria Akpokavie - healing and strength <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am</i>
Thu 24 Sep	Our Lady of Walsingham - Feast
8:20am STM	Mass: All Staff and Parents
9:40am PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	Mass: Happy Marriage, Kris and Catriona
Fri 25 Sep	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Philippa Ann Willis, RIP
7:00pm PJ	Mass: Toddler Edward Tillotson - healing and a speedy recovery
Sat 26 Sep	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00am PJ	Mass: Paul Keating - speedy recovery <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 27 Sep	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
	Missionary Orders Appeal
9:00am HC	Mass: Keith - birthday intentions
11:00am PJ	Mass: Allan Bruce, RIP - anniversary

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

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is close to all who call him.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

This Sunday, the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates what was originally known as **Home Mission Sunday**. It was renamed to honor Pope Francis' 2013 Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), which calls for a joyful and creative renewal of evangelization and is an opportunity to reflect on our call to share the joy of the Gospel with those around us.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday reminds us that mission begins close to home: in our families, workplaces, schools and neighbourhoods, as well as in our churches. It is an invitation to consider how our parish can welcome people who may be searching for meaning, returning to faith, or encountering the Church for the first time.

Margaret Waddingham has been honoured by Pope Leo XIV who has created her a **Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great**. Fr Alex invested her at Mass on Saturday, 5th September, saying the award recognized Margaret's outstanding service to the Holy Land and to the church in general. Margaret was overwhelmed and thanked Pope Leo for granting her this great honour. She accepted it with humility and gratitude on behalf of those in the Holy Land who supported her on her journey. She said *Shukran*, which is *thank you* in Arabic.

At Mass next Saturday, 26th September, Margaret will say a few words about the schools in the Holy Land.

St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School Open Evening

This Wednesday, 23rd September from 6:00 - 8:30pm.

Please join us for our **Open Evening** and discover more about our wonderful school community. There will be opportunities to tour the school and hear from our Headteacher; at 6:00pm and 7:00pm. We look forward to welcoming you!

Please pray for the **Parish Pilgrims** accompanying Fr Alex to Medjugorje this week.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Clare Glendenning, RIP** whose funeral liturgy will be in Holy Cross church on Friday, 9th October at 11:00am.

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 (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

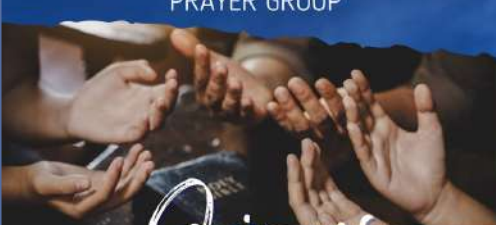
Items for the Newsletter to the editor, by the Sunday before publication. Tel/text: 07986 357 320; email: charlie.stallard@gmail.com



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

Recommended for children doing or planning on sacramental preparation programme

PRAY AND PLAY

FUN, FAITH & FRIENDSHIP!



OUR MARIAN GROUP WHERE WE PRAY THE ROSARY, DISCUSS OUR FAITH AND PLAY GAMES

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

North Bedford CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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
commsubcc@northamptondiocese.org

Twenty-five young candidates in Sacramental Preparation

We ask parishioners to consider being **Prayer Sponsors** this year. This entails a promise to pray for named candidates throughout the programme. Please email Clare Connolly if you are able to fulfill this important ministry at:

catechist.holycross@northamptondiocese.org

Franciscan Jubilee Year

Putting Franciscan Spirituality into Practice

Saturday, 31st October in Holy Cross from 2:00 - 4:00pm

Join us in meeting **Fr Emmanuel Mansford, CFR** a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal (CFR). He was born and brought up in nearby Henlow and will talk about his life as a friar living out the example of St Francis of Assisi in his work and prayer. *Fr Emmanuel* will help us understand how the saint's life relates to our lives in the local pastoral area. Michael Symonds, a member of the lay **Franciscan Third Order**, will join Fr Emmanuel in a question-and-answer session, **"Meet the Friar."**

The afternoon will close with Adoration and Benediction. Refreshments will be available as we close.



Season of Creation

The **Season of Creation** continues until Sunday, 4th October, inviting Catholics around the world to pray, reflect and act for the care of our common home. Use the remaining weeks to pray for creation, explore simple ways of caring for the environment, and bring people together in outdoor activity.

Deputy Lead Chaplain (part-time)

University of Bedfordshire

UBECT is recruiting a Deputy Lead Chaplain (30 hrs/week) to help develop a vibrant, ecumenical and multi-faith chaplaincy for students and staff across Bedford and Luton. For the job description and application form, please contact Dawn Abbatt: dawn.abbatt@stalbandsdiocese.org

Further information: ubectrust.weebly.com

Collections for our joint parishes in August

Holy Cross:	£1988.78	Open plate and envelopes
Ss P&J:	£1696.63	Open plate and envelopes

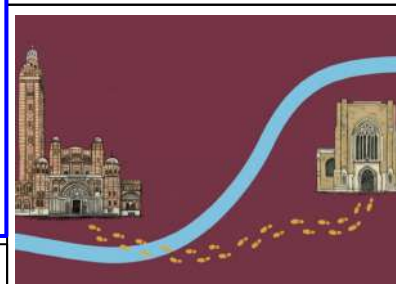
Figures do not include standing orders or donations made by Dona machines in the narthexes or by the QR codes.

Justice and Peace talk to mark the Franciscan Jubilee Year

Saturday, 3rd October at 10:00am in Sacred Heart Catholic church Hall, Leighton Buzzard

Come and join us for an inspiring parish talk: **Justice and Peace and the Care for Creation – The Work of the Whole Parish**. The morning will also highlight the **Franciscan Jubilee Year**, encouraging us to embrace St Francis' spirit of renewal and care for creation. Starting at 10:00am with Tea and coffee in the hall, the talk will then begin at 10:30am. **Brian Purfield**, who has until recently worked with the Jesuits, will be leading the morning. We aim to finish by 12:30pm. All are warmly welcome to take part in this shared mission at the heart of parish life.

For details, Nicky Wiseman: nicolajwiseman@yahoo.co.uk



Our Diocese is represented at **Adoremus** on Saturday, 10th October, as Catholics from across England and Wales gather in prayer and celebration at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, and Westminster Cathedral.

We have been allocated 50 places, giving each pastoral area the opportunity to represent the Diocese at this important celebration of the Eucharist and our Catholic faith. Please keep our diocesan representatives in your prayers as they prepare to take part.

Afternoon Tea with the SVP

Sunday, 11th October at Holy Cross church from 1:00pm.

Please ensure that you have registered your name for this event as places are limited. Contact Kathy Goodwin to register or speak to the 'Welcomers' after our weekend Masses. **There is a Mystery Speaker too!**

St Vincent's

Together, we can make a difference

1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday

Holy Cross church
355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP