



The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows/October to the Holy Rosary

2026

Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 2

The live-stream from HC is at [www.mcn.live](http://www.mcn.live)

HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James; STM - St Thomas More school

|            |                                                                                                                                        |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 26 Sep | <b>Vigil of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday</b>                                                                                                |
| 5:30pm HC  | <b>Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro populo</i>                                                                                             |
| Sun 27 Sep | <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                                                                                            |
|            | <b>Missionary Orders Appeal</b>                                                                                                        |
| 9:00am HC  | <b>Mass:</b> Keith - birthday intentions                                                                                               |
| 11:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> Allan Bruce, RIP - anniversary                                                                                            |
| Mon 28 Sep | <b>Feria</b>                                                                                                                           |
| 10:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> All Clergy and Priests                                                                                                    |
| Tue 29 Sep | <b>Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels - Feast</b>                                                                             |
| 9:40am HC  | <b>Lauds</b> (Morning Prayer)                                                                                                          |
| 10:00am HC | <b>Mass:</b> Ken Blackburn, RIP - 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary                                                                          |
| Wed 30 Sep | <b>St Jerome, Priest and Doctor - Memorial</b>                                                                                         |
| 10:00am HC | <b>Mass:</b> Derek Ruff, RIP<br><i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am</i>                 |
| Thu 1 Oct  | <b>St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor - Memorial</b>                                                                     |
| 8:20am STM | <b>Mass:</b> All Staff and Parents                                                                                                     |
| 9:40am PJ  | <b>Lauds</b> (Morning Prayer)                                                                                                          |
| 10:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> Marie Grew, RIP                                                                                                           |
| Fri 2 Oct  | <b>The Holy Guardian Angels - Memorial</b>                                                                                             |
| 10:00am HC | <b>Mass:</b> Kevin Kondoh - special intention                                                                                          |
| 7:00pm PJ  | <b>Mass:</b> Ann Matheiken - intention                                                                                                 |
| Sat 3 Oct  | <b>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>                                                                                             |
| 10:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> People of Kramatorsk, Sloviansk<br><i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i> |
| 5:30pm HC  | <b>Vigil Mass:</b> Thanksgiving for Altar Servers                                                                                      |
| Sun 4 Oct  | <b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                                                                                          |
|            | <b>CaFOD Harvest Fast Day</b>                                                                                                          |
| 9:00am HC  | <b>Mass:</b> Daniel Neylon, RIP                                                                                                        |
| 11:00am PJ | <b>Mass:</b> <i>Missa pro populo</i>                                                                                                   |

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

**Responsorial Psalm:** Remember your compassion, O Lord.

There is **NO PRAY AND PLAY** this Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September  
The next meeting will be on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, as usual from 6:20pm - 7:30pm in Holy Cross church.

Children from ages 6-plus are welcome to come along and join in the fun! Highly recommended for those children currently preparing to receive the Sacraments of **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion**.

Thanksgiving - Parish Pilgrimage

We thank Almighty God for the wonderful and blessed conclusion of our first **Parish Pilgrimage to Medjugorje**.

Our sincere gratitude to all our parishioners who participated with such faith, devotion and joyful spirit. It was truly a journey of prayer and renewal. Special thanks to Hetty and co-organisers, and all who supported and prayed for its success.

We came home with a message from our Lady:

**Latest Medjugorje Message, September 25, 2026**



"Dear children! May this time be a time of prayer for peace. I am calling you to renew in your families the prayer of the Rosary for my intentions, so that I may be able to multiply your prayers and intercede for you before the Most High, [for Him] to heed your prayers and to give you peace. I am with you and like never before I pray for you and with you, my little children. Thank you for having responded to my call."

May the fruits and graces of this pilgrimage remain in our hearts and in our parish.

On Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1850 the English Hierarchy was re-established and the **Diocese of Northampton** came into existence. **Bishop William Wareing** became the first Bishop of Northampton. *I just thought you would like to know.* [Ed😊]

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Clare Glendenning, RIP** whose funeral liturgy will be in Holy Cross church on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org)

Our Assistant Priest is Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM

Email: [frrichard.onuoha@northamptondiocese.org](mailto: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.

Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; [deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org)

(Holy Cross: [www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969](http://www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969)

(Ss Philip and James: [www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971](http://www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971)

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walking-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; [deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org)

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC; Shirley Whitehead 07955 670543 and SsP&J; Ann-Marie Blaney 07867 757598

Website: [northbedfordcatholics.org.uk](http://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](mailto:parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org)

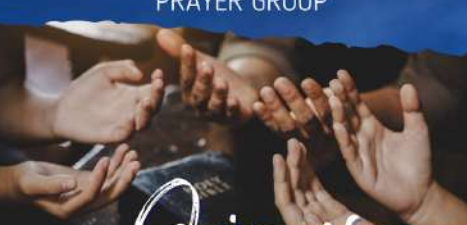
Parish Secretary Ss P&J, Mariateresa Quinlan (Tuesdays: 11:15am - 3:15pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; [Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org)

Items for the Newsletter to the editor, by the Sunday before publication. Tel/text: 07986 357 320; email: [charlie.stallard@gmail.com](mailto: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 2<sup>ND</sup> 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



Archconfraternity of St Stephen  
Invites all Altar Servers and their families to the annual  
**National Mass**  
to be hosted by the  
Archdiocese of Westminster



on  
Saturday, 3rd October 2026  
at 2:30pm



Principal celebrant  
Most Rev. Richard Moth  
Superior General of the Guild, Archbishop of Westminster



Servers to arrive by 1:45pm and vest in Cathedral Hall accessed via Ambrosden Avenue.



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

- 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 26 (St Philip & St James)
- 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 26
- 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 26
- 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 26
- 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 27
- 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 27 - Youth Mass Holy Cross 9am
- 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 27
- 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 27
- 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 27
- 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 27
- 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 27 - Youth Mass St Philip & St James 11am
- 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 27
- 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:catechist.holycross@northamptondiocese.org)

**Anniversary of Saint Francis**  
Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 10:00am - 12:30pm 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 10am with Tea and coffee in the hall, the talk will begin at 10:30am. Brian Purfield will be leading the morning. All are warmly welcome to take part in this shared mission at the heart of parish life. For more details, please contact Nicky Wiseman:  
[nicolajwiseman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nicolajwiseman@yahoo.co.uk)

**Franciscan Jubilee Year**  
**Putting Franciscan Spirituality into Practice**  
Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> October in Holy Cross from 2:00 - 4:00pm  
Join us in meeting **Fr Emmanuel Mansford, CFR** a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal (CFR). Michael Simmonds, a member of the **Secular Franciscan Order**, will join Fr Emmanuel in a Q&A session, **"Meet the Friar."** The afternoon will close with Adoration and Benediction. Refreshments will be available at the end.  
**Our mistake!** 😊 - Michael Simmonds is a member of the **Secular Franciscan Order**. We are happy to correct last week's error. [Ed 😊]

The **CHISEN Foundation** is holding a **Quiz Night** in aid of the **House of Hope building project in Ghana** on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> October. Doors open at 7:00pm and the Quiz starts at 7.15pm in **Christ the King church hall**. Tickets are £5pp or £10 for a family ticket. **Bring snacks and drinks to share.** Contact Mary Taylor on 07833 147 113 for tickets.

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

**National Mass for the Archconfraternity of St Stephen**  
All Altar servers are invited to this important event. Please let **Charlene** know if you are able to attend: 07722 184 440  
See the poster above for dates and venue.

**FLAME 2027**  
Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2027 for young people aged 14–25 in OVO Arena Wembley. **FLAME** is one of the biggest Catholic youth events in the UK, bringing thousands of young people from across England and Wales together for a day of music, inspiring speakers, prayer, worship, adoration and celebration. It is a fantastic opportunity for young people to experience the wider Catholic Church and to be encouraged in their faith. **NYMO** has some tickets so that young people from the Diocese can sit together as a diocesan group. Tickets are limited. Transport will also be available from certain locations. Register: [nymo.org/flame-2027](http://nymo.org/flame-2027)

**Prisoners' Sunday - 11<sup>th</sup> October**  
It marks the beginning of the ecumenical **Prisons Week**, a dedicated period of reflection on the needs of those affected by the criminal justice system. The day encourages individuals and communities to support **PACT** (Prison Advice and Care Trust), the Catholic charity for prisoners.

**North Bedford Churches Together one-day Annual Retreat**  
The Stables Christian Centre, Bolnhurst MK44 2ES on **Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 10:00am - 3:30pm.** Bring-and-share lunch, with tea and coffee provided. The cost is **£10**, payable on the day. Colin: 01234 356261 or email: [last555@btinternet.com](mailto:last555@btinternet.com) to help us with numbers.

**Afternoon Tea with the SVP**  
**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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**

