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 October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary/November to Souls in Purgatory **2026**

Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 2
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 24 Oct	**Vigil of the Thirtieth Sunday**
5:30pm HC	**Vigil Mass:** *Missa pro Populo*
Sun 25 Oct	**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
	Samaritan's Purse - Shoebox Appeal
9:00am HC	**Mass:** Charline and family - intention
	Baptism: Tobechukwu Ndubuisi
	Celebrant: Fr Alex Ibe
11:00am PJ	**Mass:** Derek Ruff, RIP
Mon 26 Oct	***Feria***
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Eleanor McWilliams, RIP
Tue 27 Oct	***Feria***
9:40am HC	**Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Bill Makin - healing
Wed 28 Oct	**Ss Simon and Jude,** Apostles - Feast
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Baby Cleo Mortimer, RIP
	followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am
Thu 29 Oct	***Feria***
9:40am PJ	**Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Teresa Church, RIP
Fri 30 Oct	***Feria***
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Edward Tillotson - healing
7:00pm PJ	**Mass:** Edward Tillotson - healing
Sat 31 Oct	**Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Patricia Hyland - intention
	followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am
5:30pm HC	**Vigil Mass:** Peter Willis, RIP - 9th anniversary
Sun 1 Nov	**All Saints - Solemnity**
	Sick and Retired Priests
9:00am HC	**Mass:** *Missa pro populo*
11:00am PJ	**Mass:** McCole, McHugh and Blaney families - living and departed

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

Responsorial Psalm:
I love you Lord, my strength.



Act of Remembrance
The Act of Remembrance will take place on Sunday, 8th November at the Memorial on Goldington Green. Other churches will join us for a collective service of Remembrance. Refreshments will follow in the Holy Cross parish room.

At Ss Philip and James, we will observe the National Two-Minute Silence before our 11:00am Mass.

Holy Masses for All Saints' and All Souls' Days
All Saints' Day
Vigil **(Saturday, 31st October)** - Mass: 5:30pm at HC
Sunday, 1st November
Mass: 9:00am HC
Mass: 11:00am Ss P&J
All Souls Day - Monday, 2nd November
Mass: 10:00am at SsP&J
Mass: 2:00pm in St John Rigby School
Mass: 7:00pm at HC

November List of the Dead
Throughout November, prayers and Masses are being offered for the happy repose of our departed loved ones. For the names of your departed loved ones to be remembered and prayed for on ***All Souls Day*** and throughout the month of November, collect an envelope in the narthex for this purpose or email names to Maria: Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org

Franciscan Jubilee Year
Putting Franciscan Spirituality into Practice
Next Saturday, 31st October in Holy Cross 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Join us in meeting ***Fr Emmanuel Mansford, CFR***
2:00pm Arrival and greeting
2:30pm Opening prayer and keynote presentation
3:00pm Q&A: Fr Emmanuel and Michael Simmonds
3:30pm Exposition, Adoration and Benediction
4:00pm Refreshments in the Parish Hall. Depart at 4:45pm

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Fiona McGibbon, RIP,** who passed away on Thursday, 1st October.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** and **Eucharistic Adoration** will be 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

Holy Cross, Bedford www.caspar.church/me?ID=55969

Ss Philip and James, Bedford www.caspar.church/me?ID=55971

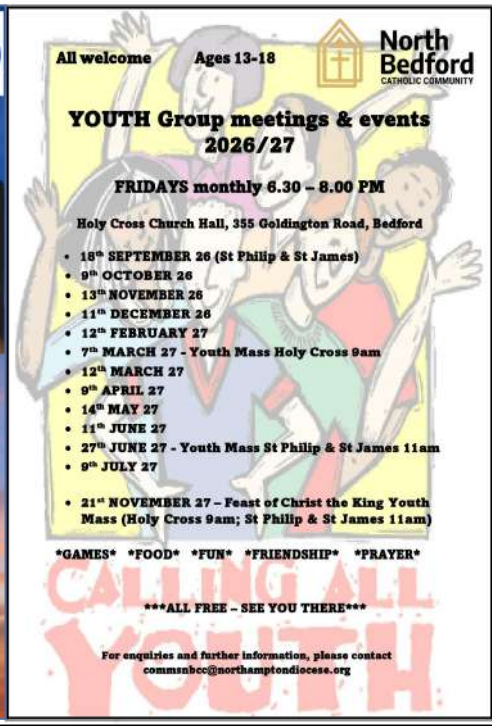
Newsletters are available through **CASPAR,** and on our website. To receive our newsletter electronically, please register with **CASPAR,** either by **QR code** or by **hyperlink** →, and tick the relevant box. (Holy Cross: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969 (Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971
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 (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

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Youth

As we celebrate the first anniversary of our Youth Group's establishment, we extend our sincere gratitude to all the young people who participated in the Youth Excursion last Saturday. Your enthusiasm, friendship, faith, and joyful presence made the outing a memorable and successful occasion.

Thank you for your commitment, energy, and willingness to be part of the journey. You are a vital part of our parish family, and we are proud of all that you have achieved together. We also thank the youth leaders, volunteers, and everyone who supported the organisation of the excursion. God bless you all. Pictures can be viewed on our Facebook page. facebook.com/NorthBedfordCC/photos_by





Twenty 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

World Youth Sunday

For teens and young adults aged between 11 - 35
St Thomas' Centre, Northampton

A weekend of events celebrating young people across the Diocese. The weekend of 20th - 22nd November will be a special weekend of opportunities for young people, schools and parishes to connect, celebrate and encounter Christ.

Please join us in Bedford for our ***Youth Sunday Mass*** as we celebrate the ***Feast of Christ the King*** on Sunday, 22nd November at 9:00am in HC and 11:00am in SsP&J.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

This weekend is the launch of the ***Shoe Box Appeal 2026***. We welcome shoe boxes for children containing small gifts (as detailed in the leaflets), "filler" items or monetary donations towards boxes which we can complete online. All donations are welcome. Cash donations may be included in a marked envelope in the offertory collection or in donation boxes in the narthex. Completed boxes should be returned before Monday, 9th November. Thank you.

CWO Wellbeing Day 2026

All women of the parish are warmly invited to attend the ***CWO Wellbeing Day 2026*** on **Saturday, 14th November at Holy Cross Parish Hall,** themed: ***"Finding Joy in Every Season."*** from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Come and be inspired as we explore the purpose and vision of the ***CWO*** through a day of praise and worship, faith-filled talks, personal reflections, group discussions, health and wellbeing tips, fellowship, and refreshments. See the poster in the nathex.

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

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

2027 is a ***Jacobean Jubilee Year,*** and the Bedfordshire Pastoral Area is proposing to run a pilgrimage to ***Santiago de Compostela*** in September/October next year. Parishioners interested in joining the pilgrimage should contact Deacon Crispin (details at the foot of the front page) for more information. Pilgrims will need to be independent, and capable of walking 115km over six days, carrying their own pack. Accommodation will be shared dormitories in backpacker hostels. The estimated cost of the pilgrimage is £550 per person.

Catholic Church numbers are growing worldwide.

According to the latest figures published by ***Fides News Agency*** to mark the 100th anniversary of ***World Mission Sunday,*** the Catholic Church has more than 1.42 billion members worldwide. The report shows growth in the number of Catholics on every continent, with Africa recording the largest increase. The worldwide number of priests has also risen slightly, while the contribution of lay missionaries and catechists continues to grow.

As the church grows worldwide, our united parish continues to grow as well from last year's figures. Thank you to our parishioners for their commitment to church activities and for fulfilling the Sunday Mass Obligation every weekend. The Mass count conducted for four Sundays has ended and the attendance figures are as follows:

19th/20th September	**26th/27th September**
5.30 HC – 126	5.30 HC – 84
9.00 HC – 159	9.00 HC – 159
11.00 PJ – 179	11.00 PJ – 145
(Total 464)	(Total 388)
3rd/4th October	**10th/11th October**
5.30 HC – 90	5.30 HC – 98
9.00 HC – 145	9.00 HC – 143
11.00 PJ – 220	11.00 PJ – 213
(Total 455)	(Total 454)

St Vincent's

1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday

Holy Cross Church,

355 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK41 0DP