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 November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory **2026**

Thirty-First 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; StJR - St John Rigby school

Sat 31 Oct	**Vigil of All Saints**
5:30pm HC	**Vigil Mass:** Peter Willis, RIP - 9th anniversary
Sun 1 Nov	**All Saints - Solemnity**
	Sick and Retired Priests' Appeal
9:00am HC	**Mass:** *Missa pro populo*
11:00am PJ	**Mass:** McCole, McHugh and Blaney families - living and departed
Mon 2 Nov	**All Souls**
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Eileen Bull, RIP
2:00pm StJR	**Mass:** All the faithful departed
7:00pm HC	**Mass:** All the faithful departed
Tue 3 Nov	***Feria***
9:40am HC	**Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Edward Tillotson and family - healing
Wed 4 Nov	**St Charles Borromeo,** Bishop - Memorial
10:00am HC	**Mass:** John and Veronica Akpokavie, RIP *followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am*
Thu 5 Nov	***Feria***
8:20am STM	**Mass:** All Staff and Parents
9:40am PJ	**Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Ken Church, RIP
Fri 6 Nov	***Feria***
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Mary and William Makin - intention
7:00pm PJ	**Mass:** Fr Wayne and Fr Christopher - intention
Sat 7 Nov	**Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Doug and Teresa Rentle, RIP *followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am*
1:30pm PJ	***Baptism:*** Céline ***Celebrant:*** Fr Alex Ibe
5:30pm HC	**Vigil Mass:** Catherine Doyle, RIP - anniversary
Sun 8 Nov	**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** **Remembrance Sunday**
9:00am HC	**Mass:** Fr Derek, RIP - 2nd anniversary
11:00am PJ	**Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

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



Remembrance Day Service

Sunday, 8th November at 10:50am ***Deacon Tony*** and ***Major Ben Mason*** will lead the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on Goldington Green on Sunday from 10:50am. Service booklets will be available, and afterwards, light refreshments are provided in the parish hall at Holy Cross church. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend and represent Holy Cross parish and the North Bedford Catholic Community.

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

November List of the Dead

Throughout November, prayers and Masses are 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, you may collect an envelope in the narthex for this purpose or email names to Maria: Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org

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, cake.

Holy Cross and Ss Philip and James Repositories
The Repositories are open before and after Sunday Mass.

Christmas 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 by ***Sunday, 8th November.*** Thank you.

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.

Responsorial Psalm:
Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

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

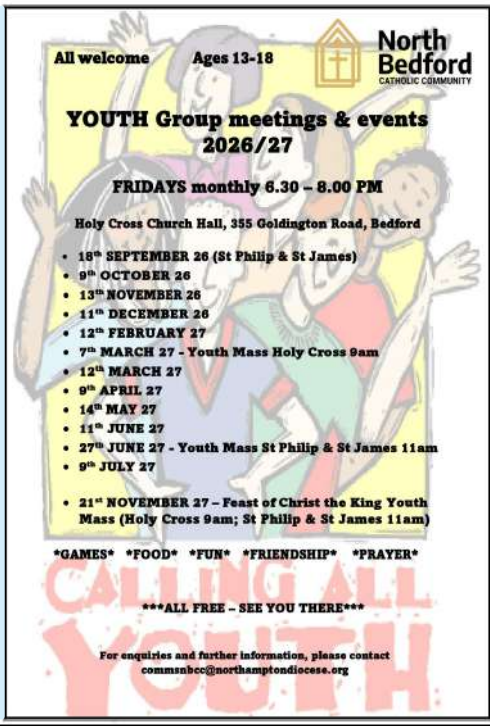
Newsletters are available through **CASPAR,** and on our website. To receive our newsletter electronically, please register with **CASPAR,** either by **QR code** or by **hyperlink** →, and tick the relevant box. (Holy Cross: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969 (Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971

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 (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









Rosary processions

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who took part in the Rosary Procession last weekend. Your commitment to prayer and your public witness to the Gospel enriched our parish and honoured Our Lady in a special way. May she continue to intercede for us and your families and may the graces received through our shared prayer continue to strengthen our parish community. *Fr Alex*

The **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist** from our joint parish will have a ***Day of Recollection*** on Saturday, 28th November in Ss Philip and James church. The day opens with Mass at 10:00am. After Mass there will be ***Exposition, the Sacrament of Reconciliation,*** and a brief talk. This moment will also offer a quiet, grace-filled opportunity to reflect once more and deepen our love for the Blessed Sacrament through prayer, reflection, and adoration.
The recollection concludes with ***Benediction.***

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

Sharing the Graces from Medjugorje

As a parish, we recently returned from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje and are happy to share our experiences.

Personal testimonies of faith, prayer, healing, and spiritual renewal can encourage others and inspire a more spiritual life and devotion to Our Lady among parishioners.

All parishioners are warmly invited to an evening of reflection and sharing on **Saturday, 28th November** after the 5:30pm Vigil Mass, in the parish hall, when those who went on the recent pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** will share their experience and the spiritual fruits they received during their journey.

Everyone is most welcome to attend.

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

Next year 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 115 km 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.

World Youth Sunday

For teens and young adults aged between 11 - 35
St Thomas' Centre, Northampton
Events celebrating young people across the Diocese take place over the weekend of 20th - 22nd November. This is a special opportunity 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.

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 narthex.

Be still and know that I am God: 20th - 23rd November

Step away from the noise and rediscover the stillness in which we become attentive to God. A Retreat will be led by ***Fr Roger Dawson SJ,*** with Liz Lord and Steve Noone. This residential retreat explores mindfulness, psychology and the Christian spiritual life. The weekend includes talks, contemplative prayer, Mass, Adoration and time to walk, rest and reflect in the peaceful surroundings of the Stonyhurst estate. To find out more and to book: christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god/