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-Second Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 4
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 7 Nov	**Vigil of Thirty Second Sunday in OT**
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*
Mon 9 Nov	**Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** - Feast
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Vlad, Charles and Anna - healing
Tue 10 Nov	**St Leo the Great,** Pope & Doctor - Memorial
9:40am HC	**Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Lesley Leach, RIP
Wed 11 Nov	**St Martin of Tours,** Bishop - Memorial
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Dominic Mark Christensen, RIP
	followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am
Thu 12 Nov	**St Josaphat,** Bishop and Martyr - Memorial
8:20am STM	**Mass:** All Staff and Parents
9:40am PJ	**Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Angus Angus, RIP
Fri 13 Nov	***Feria***
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Antonia Smith - healing
7:00pm PJ	**Mass:** Edward Tillotson - speedy recovery
Sat 14 Nov	**Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** All souls in purgatory
	followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am
5:30pm HC	**Vigil Mass:** Mary and Kevin David Severs, RIP
Sun 15 Nov	**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
	Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy - Appeal
9:00am HC	**Mass:** *Missa pro populo*
11:00am PJ	**Mass:** McCole, McHugh and Blaney families - living and deceased
1:00pm PJ	***Baptism:*** Bodhi Christopher Kennedy
	Celebrant: Deacon Tony Quinlan

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

Responsorial Psalm:
For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.



Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 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 throughout November, please collect an envelope in the narthex or email names to Maria: Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org

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.

Please be aware there will be an **SMMM Appeal** next weekend 14th/15th November.

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Maria Maccario, RIP** whose Funeral Mass will be held in Holy Cross church this Monday, 9th November at 11:15am.

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

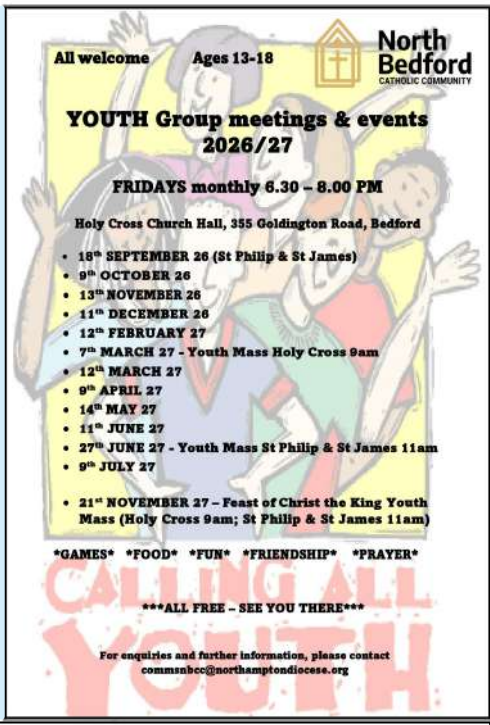
Newsletters are available through **CASPAR,** and on our website. To receive our newsletter electronically, please register with **CASPAR,** either by **QR code** or by **hyperlink** →, and tick the relevant box. (Holy Cross: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969 (Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971

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

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





The **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist** from our joint parish will have a ***Day of Recollection on Saturday, 28th November in SsP&J.*** 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.***

Previously on the newsletter:

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela next year.
World Youth Weekend: Northampton 20th/22nd November
Be still and know that I am God: 20th - 23rd November

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2026

Cash donations may still be included in marked envelopes in the offertory or in donation boxes in the narthex. Boxes should be returned by ***this Sunday/Monday.*** Thank you.

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

Our Repositories are open before and after Sunday Mass.

A big thank you to ***Marianne Sellers*** who is retiring from flower arranging at Holy Cross church. Marianne has delighted parishioners with her arrangements for over 25 years and we are all most grateful for her service.

The trustees of the **Chisen Foundation** would like to thank all those who so generously supported their recent Quiz Night. A magnificent £800 was raised, all of which will go towards the completion of ***The House of Hope*** in Ghana.

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

Altar Servers Training

There will be an Altar Servers' Training Session for all current altar servers and those who joined recently. As we approach the season of Advent, leading towards Christmas, serving at the altar is a privileged way to participate in the liturgy and grow closer to Christ born in time to save us. You are encouraged to attend these training sessions: ***Tuesday, 17th November at Ss Philip and James at 6:30pm and Monday, 21st December at Holy Cross, also at 6:30pm***. Parents are encouraged to support their children in attending this training.

Franciscan Jubilee Year Celebration

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who attended and participated in the ***Franciscan Jubilee Year Celebration*** held in our parish last Saturday. Your prayerful participation and joyful presence made the occasion a truly grace-filled occasion. May the Lord continue to bless all who joined us in giving thanks for the rich spiritual heritage of St Francis of Assisi, and may the Jubilee Year inspire us to grow ever deeper in faith, humility, and care for God's creation.

NBCC Youth Group

The next group meeting is this ***Friday, 13th November*** in Holy Cross hall at 6:30pm. Those aged 13 to 18 are welcomed. Come along to pray, reflect and have fun!

Remember, it is our ***Youth Sunday Mass*** on the ***Feast of Christ the King*** on Sunday, 22nd November at 9:00am in Holy Cross and 11:00am in Ss Philip & James.

Advent Online Retreat

Walking with ***St Francis through Advent:*** an online retreat Thursday evenings from 26th November at 7.30pm

Four Advent talks exploring different aspects of the life, spirituality and legacy of St Francis of Assisi, as we mark the 800th anniversary of his death. Together, we will discover how the example of St Francis can inspire and guide us on our own journey through Advent. Live on YouTube, Thursday evenings, and at any time thereafter. To register, sign up at: buytickets.at/northamptondiocese/2466300