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-Third 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 14 Nov	**Vigil of Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
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 Crispin Walkling-Lea
Mon 16 Nov	***Feria***
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Jim Brown - healing
Tue 17 Nov	***Feria***
9:40am HC	**Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Tricia Mayer - healing
Wed 18 Nov	***Feria***
10:00am HC	**Mass:** The skill and dedication of Surgeons *followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am*
Thu 19 Nov	***Feria***
8:20am STM	**Mass:** All Staff and Parents
9:40am PJ	**Lauds** (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Jane Shrapnel - healing
Fri 20 Nov	***Feria***
10:00am HC	**Mass:** Lucy Makew and Mr M Thomas, RIP
7:00pm PJ	**Mass:** All Souls in Purgatory
Sat 21 Nov	**The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
10:00am PJ	**Mass:** Jozef Pluta, RIP *followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am*
5:30pm HC	**Vigil Mass:** Rory and Alice, RIP
Sun 22 Nov	**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**
	Catholic Youth Services Appeal
9:00am HC	**Mass:** Mary Coblenz, RIP and departed Coblenz family
11:00am PJ	**Mass:** *Missa pro populo*

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

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

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 through November, you may still use the envelopes in the narthex or email names to Maria: Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org

Tenth World Day of The Poor

The Church celebrates the ***Tenth World Day of the Poor*** this Sunday. This year's theme, ***"The Lord is the refuge of the poor"*** (Psalm 14:6), comes from Pope Leo's message, in which he calls the Church to become a place of welcome, dignity and hope for those experiencing poverty.

The Holy Father reminds us that poverty extends beyond material hardship to include loneliness, exclusion and the loss of dignity and a voice. He challenges Christian communities not to remain indifferent to those who may be overlooked or marginalised, but to go out, listen to their experiences and share their hopes.

World Youth Sunday Mass - Sunday, 22nd November

Join us in Bedford for our Youth Sunday Mass as we celebrate the ***Feast of Christ the King*** next Sunday, 22nd November: 9:00 am in Holy Cross and 11:00am in Ss Philip and James. This special morning is a wonderful opportunity to come together in prayer, fellowship, and celebration of the young people who bring so much life to our Church.

Sharing the Graces from Medjugorje

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.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2026

Cash donations may still be included in marked envelopes in the offertory. Thank you.

There is an **SMMM Appeal** this weekend. Envelopes made available last weekend may be placed in the collection.

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.

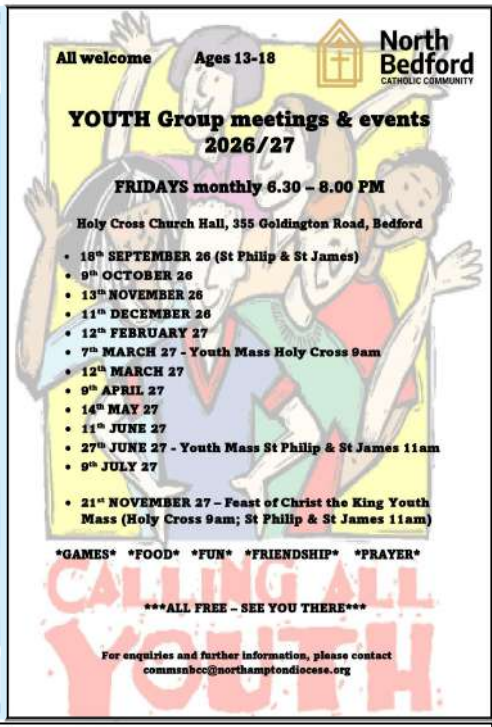
Our Parish Priest is Fr Alexander Ibe, SMMM **Email:** fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org
Our Assistant Priest is Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM **Email:** frrichard.onuoha@northamptondiocese.org
The Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX Tel: (01234) 352607
HC: Holy Cross Church, 355 Goldington Road, 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

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 6:30pm in Ss Philip and James and Monday, 21st December at 6:30pm in Holy Cross***.

Parents are encouraged to support their children in attending this training.

Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure. Next weekend there will be envelopes at the back of church for you to take home and put all your foreign coins and notes into. Clear out your drawers and have a look under the sofa. Currently the charity feeds over three million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. By giving ***Mary's Meals*** your foreign coins and notes you can help feed the next hungry child. ***Mary's Meals*** feeds in 16 countries. Because of our low costs we can do this for as little as £19.15 per child per year!

***We will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender**

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

Four Advent talks explore different aspects of the life, spirituality and legacy of St Francis of Assisi, as we mark the 800th anniversary of his death.

Live on YouTube on Thursday evenings. To register, please sign up at: buytickets.at/northamptondiocese/2466300

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

This Sunday is Safeguarding Sunday

Shirley and Ann-Marie are the parish safeguarding representatives. Shirley covers Holy Cross and Ann-Marie, Ss Philip and James.

Our Diocese is preparing communications centred on the message that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This will include reflections from ***The Empty Chair,*** a video featuring people from across our diocesan community, and practical information to help us understand how to raise a concern. A number of printed copies of ***The Empty Chair*** are available in the narthex. A digital copy is also available on the diocesan website, allowing people to read and reflect on the booklet online.

As ***Parish Safeguarding Representatives*** we help our parish put safeguarding into practice. This includes helping ensure that our parish follows the Church's necessary safeguarding procedures, supporting those involved in parish activities to understand their responsibilities, and helping people know where to turn if they have a safeguarding concern.

Safeguarding is about people, ensuring that our parish and wider communities are places where children, young people and adults at risk are treated with dignity, listened to and protected from harm.

This year's ***Safeguarding Sunday*** theme, ***"Love Protects"***, reminds us that safeguarding is an expression of Christian love and everyone's responsibility. We all have a part to play by looking out for one another, listening to those who may be vulnerable, following safeguarding guidance and speaking up if something does not feel right. If you have a concern, please do not ignore it or feel you need to investigate it yourself; share it with us, our parish priest or the diocesan safeguarding team. If someone discloses abuse, listen calmly, take them seriously and never promise to keep it secret. Where someone is in immediate danger, call 999. Safeguarding is something we live out together, creating a parish community where everyone feels safe, valued, respected and cared for.

Our details are always in the newsletter.

St Vincent's

Together, we can make a difference

1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday in Holy Cross Church