

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*

March is dedicated to St Joseph

Fifth Week of Lent

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year B; Weekday: Year II; Psalter I

The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live

HC - Holy Cross Church; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James Church

- Sat 16 Mar **Saturday of the Fourth week in Lent**
5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** Marie Clarke, RIP
- Sun 17 Mar **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
9:00am HC **Mass:** KT Mathai, RIP
11:00am PJ **Mass:** *Missa pro Populo*
- Mon 18 Mar **Feria**
10:15am PJ Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Tue 19 Mar **St Joseph, spouse of the BVM - Solemnity**
10:15am HC **Mass:** Anne and Gerry Maxwell, RIP
followed by Stations of the Cross
- Wed 20 Mar **Feria**
10:15am HC **Mass:** Ann Cawley, RIP
followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration to 11:15am
- Thu 21 Mar **Feria**
10:15am PJ **Mass:** Ann Ferry, RIP
- Fri 22 Mar **Feria**
10:15am HC **Mass:** Fr Liam Castle
7:00pm PJ *Stations of the Cross*
- Sat 23 Mar **Saturday of the Fifth week in Lent**
10:15am PJ **Mass:** Laura Henson and James Karoinski - preparing for marriage
followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration to 11:30am
- 5:30pm HC **Vigil Mass:** *Missa pro Populo*
- Sun 24 Mar **Palm Sunday**
9:00am HC **Mass:** Peter and Mary McNulty, RIP
11:00am PJ **Mass:** Tina Tierney, RIP

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

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** and **Eucharistic Adoration** takes place on Wednesdays at HC after Mass until 11:15am and every Saturday from 11:00 - 11:30am in SsP&J.

This Sunday, 17th March, **Years 1 and 2** children will be invited to lead the offertory and participate in singing.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Sylvia Gillard, RIP**, whose Funeral Mass will be this Tuesday, 19th March at 1:00pm in Holy Cross church.

Holy Week in our parishes

Maundy Thursday, 28th March:

11:00am: Chrism Mass at the Cathedral *

7:30pm: Maundy Thursday - HC

followed by The Watch until 11:30pm

Good Friday, 29th March:

11:00am: Stations of the Cross for youth - HC

3:00pm: The Passion of the Lord - HC

7:00pm: Stations of the Cross - SsP&J

Good Friday is a day of Fasting

and Abstinence from eating meat

* You are all encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be available following Mass in the St Thomas Centre. All welcome.

In previous years, a minibus has been provided. However, this year, **if you need a lift**, contact Sheila at the parish office. If you are **able to offer a lift**, please also contact Sheila. She will attempt to match one with the other.

Easter Celebrations

There are no Masses on Saturday until the Easter Vigil

Holy Saturday, 30th March:

7:30pm: Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at HC

Easter Sunday, 31st March:

9:00am: Resurrection of the Lord at HC

11:00am: Resurrection of the Lord at SsP&J

Easter Flowers - If you would like to contribute to the Easter flowers in remembrance of a loved one over Eastertide, please put any amount in an envelope and place it in the collection with the name of the person on the front. A list of names will be placed at the side of the altar in both churches and these people will be prayed for at all the Masses during the Easter season.

Please return your envelope by **Sunday, 24th March**.

Altar Servers Training: The last rehearsal for the Altar Servers in preparation for Holy Week and Easter Masses will be this **Thursday, 21st March at 6:00pm in Holy Cross church**. All Altar servers and parents are welcome.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Brenda Oakes, RIP**, whose Funeral Liturgy will be held in Holy Cross church on Wednesday, 3rd April at 12:30pm.

And please pray for the repose of the soul of **Cynthia Clements, RIP**, whose Funeral Liturgy takes place in Holy Cross church, on Thursday, 11th April at 12:30pm.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Ann Ferry, RIP**, who died recently. Funeral arrangements are to follow.

Our Priest is Fr Alexander Ibe, SMMM: Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX

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

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

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walking-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walkinglea@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 contact form on the website)

Parish Secretary HC, Sheila Allen (Mondays and Thursday: 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: 07986 357 320; email: charlie.stallard@gmail.com

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We Dare to Pray - Fifth and final Session For the Glory is Yours



Lets us pray: O God, send forth your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we might perceive, into our minds that we might remember, into our souls that we

might meditate. May your grace help us to see with your eyes and to act with your love and light in our hearts. May we be strengthened with wisdom from on high for the sake and glory of your kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Read the Word - Hebrews 12:1-3,7,10-17,28-29

Once the Scripture passage has been read you should choose a word or phrase that has struck you.

How do you end a prayer? In the liturgy we have a number of set phrases, such as *'Through Christ our Lord'*, which not only round off the text and signify to the listener that it is concluding but also remind us that the prayer we offer is done so through Jesus who unites us with Him in his prayer to his Father.

How would Jesus have ended a prayer? What we know from scripture is that he would probably said some words of praise of God, a 'doxology', such as these words of King David *'Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all'* (1 Chronicles 29:11), and still found in the New Testament letters, for example, *'To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.'* (1 Peter 4:11).

"We Dare to Say" online:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/we-dare-to-say/>

Feast of St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass will be celebrated at **Northampton Cathedral** at 11.00am this **Tuesday, 19th March**. In our diocese it is a double celebration as it is also the 4th anniversary of Bishop David's Episcopal Ordination. Refreshments after Mass.

The Chisen Foundation (registered charity) will be holding an Easter Raffle to raise funds to help with the completion of the **'HOUSE OF HOPE'** in Ghana. Tickets will be on sale on Sundays 17th and 24th March in the church narthexes and the raffle will be drawn after Mass on the 24th March. The **'HOUSE OF HOPE'** will become an educational centre offering care and support to children and their families with special needs and disabilities in a country where help is sadly lacking. **Chisen** is a local registered charity many of you will be familiar with, and we thank all who have supported us the past. With your continued help, we will move forward to the completion of the **HOUSE OF HOPE** in the not too distant future.

Margaret Wells will be distributing **Gift Aid boxes** and also be available to advise and complete new or revised standing orders **this weekend 16th/17th March**.

The **online Rosary Group** meet 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. Luvly!

St Vincent's is cancelled this week due to a large funeral.

FAMILY FOOTBALL FUN

come and join the fun on Bank Holiday
Easter Monday 1ST APRIL

free hot & cold drinks will be provided for all in the church hall after the match

participants & volunteers to arrive at 12.30 starts at 1.00pm on the GOLDINGTON GREEN FIELD opposite HOLY CROSS CHURCH

5 aside tournament for ages 13-adult
separate football match for age 8-12 years on the day

bring a picnic for after the tournament to enjoy back at Holy Cross

female & male participants welcome

PIC-COLLAG

Monday, 5th till Friday, 9th August 2024

At Holy Cross Church, Bedford

For Faith, Friendship and Family Fun.
For children aged 6 plus.

PRAY and PLAY

Sign-up for Family Football
Fun in the narthexes by this
Thursday, 21st March.

Northampton Diocese LIFE IN THE SPIRIT 16 APR - MAY 21 SEMINARS

GOD'S LOVE 16 APRIL
Dr. Maria Heath

SALVATION 23 APRIL
Fr. Emmanuel Okami

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST 30 APRIL

RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS 7 MAY
Pauline Gray

HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT DAY 18 MAY
Pentecost Saturday
Ros Powell

GROWTH & TRANSFORMATION 21 MAY
Jenny Baker & Fr. Pius Amoako

for more info visit
<https://northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2024/>

Scan QR code to register

Life in the Spirit

Evenings begin with teas/coffees and welcome from 6:30pm; Praise & worship from 7:00pm to 7:30pm with talks lasting 30 minutes, starting at 7:30pm. Music and talk live-streamed to hubs from the Cathedral.

Small group sharing will also take place in the hubs at: Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Cranfield, Luton, Slough, Corby, and Bedford.

See our previous newsletter for details.

Information and Registration - Information and the link to register can be found on the Diocese website at:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2024/> including a video message from Bishop David (<https://youtu.be/kKt5g-M1qe8>) encouraging parishioners.

In preparation for the **Jubilee Year** and within this year of prayer, Bishop David and Canon John Udris will lead a **pilgrimage to Northern France**. From **15th to 22nd October**, you spend a few days in **Lisieux**, the home of St Therese, before travel on to **Chartres** for one night and finally, three nights in **Paris**. You will have the opportunity to stop and pray in the Church of **St Etienne de Rouvray, Rouen** where Fr Jacques Hamal was murdered celebrating Mass. For info: <https://northamptondiocese.org/france/>
Bookings open this Monday, 18th March.