

Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Christ the King, Bedford

The Fourth Sunday of Lent, 2026

Today we reach the mid-point of Lent, **Laetare Sunday**, named after the first word of the Introit of this Mass - Rejoice! A reminder that in Catholic Christianity, there is rejoicing even in a Fast. The word, 'Rejoice', was the very first word spoken in the New Testament, and the attitude it expresses lies at the very core of the Christian life.

Although we may see the approach of Lent as a somewhat daunting experience, once we have entered into Lent we often adopt a very different approach to it. Indeed, we are invited to see Lent as gift; forty days given to us as a time of personal growth. Mid-Lent can be a time to re-engage with this season, and to observe Lent not in the sense of looking negatively at ourselves, but in looking to the Lord who opens up the way for us to become better. The great question for everyone is, what is God doing in my life this Lent?

Our Thursday evenings, **Lent in the light of the saints**, are taking a break this week, and will resume next week for the final session.

On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent the Church holds the 'Scrutinies' for those who are to be initiated into the Christian life at Easter. These Rites, which date back the 400s and which were restored by Pope Paul VI, are for self-searching and repentance, and to help the Elect to deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ, and to carry out their decision to love God above all else. Our parish has one adult catechumen, Marco, who is preparing for baptism, but we pray for all the catechumens in the Diocese, who will be baptised at Easter.

We are very grateful to Siobhan of **Aid to the Church in Need**, who visited our parish last week. Her briefing at our Masses was very inspiring, especially about the witness to the Lord by Catholics in Nigeria and in Pakistan. And we were also very glad that she hosted an ACN stall at the back of the church. The appeal collection raised £537.35 for **Aid the the Church in Need**.

Schedule for the week beginning Sunday 15th March 2026

Saturday 14th March

10.00am - 10.45am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass, thanksgiving for this season of grace

Sunday 15th March

8.30am Holy Mass (Latin), the faithful of the parish

10.30am Holy Mass, Magdeline Lum and Thomas Niba RIP

5pm Syro-Malabar Mass

Tuesday 17th March

6.30pm Holy Mass, The intentions of the Long family

7pm-7.30pm Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 18th March

10am Holy Mass, Victims of abuse

10.30am The Holy Rosary

Thursday 19th March, The Solemnity of St Joseph.

6.30pm Holy Mass, Peace in the world

Friday 20th March

8.30am Stations of the Cross

11am - 11.45am Eucharistic Adoration, Confession available

12 noon Holy Mass, Darius Zimantas

Saturday 21st March

10.00am - 10.45am Confession available

6.00pm Vigil Mass

Please remember the sick of our parish and those who have died recently.

Last weeks Offertory Collection:

Collection £609.51 Standing Orders £162 Total £771.51 Thank you

We are grateful to all who donate to the parish with a Standing Order. If you would like to donate in this way, please use these details:

Name: Christ the King Parish

Sort: 600611 Account: 46714332

Next Sunday there is a retiring collection for altar flowers for Easter.

Confession

As well as the regular times on Fridays and Saturdays, there is a two-hour period of Eucharistic Adoration with Confession available, on Friday 27th March, 6pm to 8pm.

The Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter, from Palm Sunday to Low Sunday enable us to celebrate the Mystery of the Redemption.

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

8.30am Holy Mass (Latin)

10.30am Holy Mass

Tuesday 31st March

5pm Altar Servers' practice for Holy Week

6.30pm Holy Mass

7pm to 7.30pm Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 1st April

11am The Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Northampton

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.30pm The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by watching with the Blessed Sacrament until 9.30pm

Good Friday 3rd April

10am Children's Stations of the Cross

3pm The Commemoration of the Passion

Holy Saturday 4th April

7.30pm The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday 5th April

8.30am Holy Mass (Latin)

10.30am Holy Mass

3pm Holy Mass in Lithuanian

5pm Syro-Malabar Mass

Volunteers for the Mandatum ceremony. Please indicate on the chart at the back of the church if you wish to be a part of this.

Re-commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. I ask the Ministers to let me know beforehand if you wish to be commissioned anew.

Let's continue to remember in prayer all our children who are preparing to receive First Sacraments next month, and support their families in prayer.

For those who are seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation, we hope to make a concrete invitation to you before Easter, so that you can also enter into a time of preparation for this Sacrament.

As we continue our Lenten Journey towards Palm Sunday, we approach the Liturgical celebration of the Redemption; the two weeks that celebrate the very hinge of human history, Holy Week and Easter Week. The events of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ are handed to us by the Tradition as solemn rites that are unlike anything else that we are used to entering into in the Church's Liturgy. Palm Sunday is the threshold, and the Sunday after Easter, the eighth day of Easter, represents the great rite of passage for all Christians, new and old, who have come to spiritual maturity through our participation in what Christ has done. Traditionally, on this Sunday the newly baptised finally took off the white garments they had received on Easter Day, and resumed their ordinary dress.

It would be great to hear more from parishioners in our newsletter and I invite you to submit items. If you would like to include a piece in the newsletter, please let me have this in written form or by email.

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