

Welcome

to the

Parish of Christ the King



Presbytery, Harrowden Road, Bedford. MK 42 0SP

Parish Priest: Father Richard Aladics

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Website: www.christthekingbedford.com

Registered Charity Number: 234091

A warm welcome from the Parish Priest and the congregation of Christ the King Church, Bedford

This booklet aims to welcome you to our parish and introduce our mission, providing an overview of the many activities and ministries that we're engaged in.

A good way to meet us all is after Sunday 10:30 am Mass. There are refreshments in the hall and you are most welcome to join us.

Parish of Christ the King



Harrowden Road, Bedford

WEEKEND MASSES

Vigil Mass Saturday - 6pm

Sunday Mass – 8:30am (Latin Mass)

Sunday Sung Mass – 10:30am

Sunday 5pm – (Keralan Mass)

(Tea and coffee are served in the hall after 10:30am Mass)

WEEKDAY MASS/SERVICES

Tuesday – 6:30pm Mass

Wednesday – 10am Mass

Thursday – 6:30pm Mass

Friday – 11am Adoration

Friday - Mass 12 noon

HOLY DAYS

10am and 7pm Masses

(Please check the weekly newsletter for any changes to Mass times.)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday 11am to 11:45am

Saturday 10am to 10:45am

BAPTISM

By appointment – Enquiry can be made via the Parish Priest

MARRIAGE

People who intend to marry are encouraged to give six months' notice.

Christ the King Church is "Catholic". What does this mean?

What is a Catholic?



Catholics are Christians; this means that they are followers of Jesus Christ. They believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, the Son of God, their friend, liberator, Lord and Saviour. Catholics believe that Jesus Christ set up the Church (Matthew's Gospel, chapter 16, verse 18)

to pass on the fullness of his teaching, his life, and to carry on his work.

A family

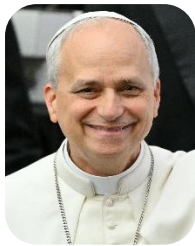
Catholic means universal. There are over one billion people worldwide who are members of the Catholic Church which was founded by Jesus Christ in the first century AD. It is made up of a large family of people from every race, colour and social background, who share a common vision and beliefs. Whatever part of the world they live in, they are in communion (united) with one another in a special way through their leaders who they believe to be chosen and appointed by God.

Church

'Church' means the gathering of the people of God. The church building is the focal point for Catholic community gatherings, and is a place where friendships are made and lives shared. People gather there to pray, and to learn about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The sacraments are a very important part of Church life. These are God-given spiritual channels through which life flows. The 'Eucharist' is a very special sacrament. When Catholics come together to celebrate 'Mass' they share a holy meal and believe that through it they are fed, under the appearance of bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ. During the Mass a miracle takes place. When the priest says a special prayer over the bread, it is changed by God's power, so that Jesus is present in it in a unique way. Though it still looks like bread, Jesus' living presence is there, and this is what Catholics call 'Holy Communion' because they are united with God when they receive it. The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders.



Leaders



Pope Leo

The Catholic Church takes care of its community through a network of leaders, teachers and helpers. The head of the Catholic Church worldwide is Pope Leo. Locally, the Church is led by bishops and priests. Our Parish Priest is Father Richard.



Fr Richard Aladics

Jesus' teaching

Jesus taught that we should love our neighbour as ourselves (Mark's Gospel, chapter 12, verse 31). Catholics try to put this into practice and find it to be a life-giving and fulfilling way to live. They are involved in a wide variety of charitable works such as running hostels for the homeless and caring for the elderly.

Some of the core parts of Jesus' teaching

God loves us. Believing in him is the way to true freedom, peace and happiness. We should love God and one another, especially the poor and needy. Our messes, mistakes and wrongs can be put right - we can be forgiven and know peace. We can be healed from deep wounds and hurts by calling on the name of Jesus. If we believe in Jesus, we will inherit eternal life and live with him in heaven.

An Amazing Journey

Jesus has many amazing things to offer you and those you love. His life and message is about wholeness, love and freedom. Jesus will not force you to get to know him and receive all the good things on offer.

You are free to choose. It is up to you... a warm welcome awaits you at Christ the King Parish as a place to be fed on your journey of faith. *Written by Clare Ward.*

Text adapted from: www.the.papalvisit.org.uk/the-catholic-faith/the-catholic-faith

Christ the King Church, Bedford is in the Diocese of Northampton.
The Cathedral of Our Lady Immaculate & St Thomas of Canterbury
is the mother church of the Diocese.
Website: www.northamptondiocese.org

What it was like in those days

My wife and I came to this area in 1949 with our two children, a two-year-old and a six-week-old baby. We were the fourth occupants of our estate, and at the time there were no roads, paths etc., just a sea of mud. At that time there was no church of Christ the King. My wife and I, with our two children would walk into Bedford to the only church available to us, that of "St. Joseph and the Holy Child" at Midland Road, which was then under the guidance of Fr. Thomson.

Mass then started to be said for the Catholics on our side of the town at the Community Hall in Faldo Road. Eventually due to the enormous efforts of our clergy, we were able to open our own little school and Mass centre in what is now the Church Hall of our own church.

During these years while our own Parish of Christ the King was growing, my own family was also growing apace, and all of them went to our little school in our hall. When my third daughter was 4-5 and at our school, our then Parish Priest, Father Galvin, had managed to accumulate enough funds, through endless effort and hard work, to start the building of what is now our church of Christ the King.



My daughter, Geraldine, who is now 31, and her school friends at that time can, I am sure, remember clearly the building of our church. Indeed, I believe she got herself into trouble by venturing, with another friend, into the area of the building work, which had been put off-limits to all the children. For me and my

wife, the church is home to the most wonderful memories to do with our growing family. My five daughters all grew up as our church grew up. My three younger daughters made their First Communions in our church and their Confirmations.

After Fr. Galvin left us, we were joined by Fr. Parr, who instituted many recreational activities for the younger parishioners. Fr. Parr was succeeded by Fr. Davenport, who left to become a missionary, and he was followed first by Fr. Hindle and then by Fr. Walne.

The church has melted over the years, many parishioners have moved away or died, but the memory of them lives on in our church and makes it what it is today.

Written in 1985 by FRANK McAULEY

***The Parish Hall is available for lettings: Family occasions, Baptismal parties, etc
See the parish activities and groups section of this booklet for hall bookings details.***

Why the Church was built (*Bedfordshire Times* - 6th March 1959)

“Almost on the borough boundary, at the junction of Mile Road and London Road, stands the Roman Catholic church of Christ the King. It is a small building, a dual-purpose hall erected some five years ago, and it stands away from the road in the corner of a large site which also contains the presbytery.



Some indication of the popularity of this Roman Catholic cause is that it was here, for the first time in this tour of the Bedford churches, I was at a service where there were not enough seats and

the people were standing at the back of the church. True there are only two hundred seats, but this was only one of three Masses held that day, and at all of them, the Parish Priest (Father J. Galvin) tells me, it is the same. Some 600 come to Mass each Sunday”.

This extract from the Bedfordshire Times indicated quite clearly the need for a new and larger building. Work began within months of its printing.

How the Church was paid for



Fr. James Galvin was the greatest influencing factor in all aspects concerned with raising the finances and with the planning and administration of the project.

Parochial involvement to raise the finance consisted of a door-to-door collection, where parishioners contributed whatever, they could, also the “buy a brick” for half-a-crown scheme, Sunday evening dances in the Hall and the fete. Soon the finances were at a suitable stage to progress with the building although Fr. Galvin had a difficult job to persuade the architect to leave the interior showing the delicate brick rather than whitewashing the walls.

The first landmark was the laying of the foundation stone by His Lordship Bishop Parker. Behind the foundation stone, in a wall cavity, was sealed a list of all the parishioners who had “bought a brick”.



On Whit Monday, 6th June 1960, the new church was opened by Bishop Parker.

Please join us in saying the prayer that follows for the mission of the parish



Our Parish Prayer

We praise and thank you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask you Father that you will give us a Spirit of wisdom as we come to know you better.

Enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know the Joy of the Gospel and the hope to which you have called us. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our parish; help us to move in the power of your Spirit and to hear you as you speak to us.

Reveal yourself more fully in our lives and in our parish so that we may be kind to our neighbour, just in our dealings with each other, welcome the needy & forgotten, and walk humbly with you. Help us to trust in you completely each day. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Pope Leo on the mission of the Catholic Parish



Pope Leo XIV emphasizes that the mission of a Catholic parish is to be a "generative" community that nurtures faith and actively reaches out to those in need, integrating social issues like social justice, mental health, and environmental care into its life.

Parishes should also promote a missionary mindset, where individuals become outward-looking disciples who embody Christ's love by reaching out to the suffering and lonely within and beyond the parish walls.

The mission should be grounded in the principle of love, aiming to foster unity within the Church and serve as a symbol of peace and well-being for the world.

In essence, Leo XIV envisions parishes as vital centres for both spiritual growth and active engagement with the world, fostering a missionary and generative spirit to bring Christ's hope and love to all.

Parish Activities and Groups

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar servers are lay assistants to the Priest during the Mass.

They undertake supporting tasks at the altar such as fetching and carrying, ringing the altar bell and so on.

Contact the Parish Priest if you would like to be an altar server.

Full training will be given.

BEDFORD FOOD BANK

Bedford Foodbank's volunteers work with referral partners to provide a minimum of three days emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in our community.

We are a collection point for the Bedford Foodbank.

For further information contact please the parish's SVP, or

Teresa Williams assisted by Jenny Becker,

teresawilliams2000@hotmail.co.uk or visit the Foodbank website:

bedford.foodbank.org.uk

BEDFORD STREET ANGELS

They provide a team of Christians, of all ages, to be available to everyone using the nightclubs and other entertainments in Bedford Town Centre on Saturday nights. For Further information Tel. 01234 262505

www.bedfordstreetangels.org.uk

CAFOD

It is our duty of faith to help our brothers and sisters around the world.

Volunteers are VERY WELCOME to help and support

our fundraising events.

CADETS OF OUR LADY & CONSECRATED CHILDREN OF MARY IMMACULATE

The Cadets hold a weekly prayer meeting and workshop every Saturday from 1pm to 2pm in The Patrick Donegan Room and outdoors if fine. Please

see Suzy for further details or email suzanne.enoharthur@nhs.net

Parish Activities and Groups

CATECHISTS

Check the parish website or telephone the parish number or speak to the Parish Priest for further information on First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – LAY CHAPLAINS

There are three Catholic schools in Bedford.
St Thomas More (secondary) – Helen Burgess
St Francis of Assisi (primary) –
St John Rigby (primary) – Mary Ward
Parish contact: Mary Ward.
Email: marygolarzward@yahoo.co.uk

CHISEN FOUNDATION - Caring for children with special needs in Ghana
Registered. Charity No 1148250

CHISEN Foundation is a charitable organisation which helps children with disabilities in Ghana – (West Africa). Our mission is to support each child by providing education, specialist advice, training and general support. We encourage each child to focus on their abilities and find independence so that they can live to their full potential and contribute to society.

For more information, please contact them on Tel. 07594 588 729

Email - chisenfoundation@outlook.com

Website – www.chisenfoundation.org

CHURCH HALL

To book Christ the King Church Hall for an event, function or to get a price, you will need contact Praetorium on 01372 457651

Email: rita@lowcosthalls.co.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH BEDFORD

The parish has strong ecumenical ties with other Christian churches in the area. Various joint events take place over the year. Please see the weekly newsletter for details. If you want to know more, contact our parish ecumenical representative.

Rosemarie Langley Tel. 01234 353318 or 07914 062616

Sister Dympna Tel. 01234 350794

Parish Activities and Groups

COME & SEE

If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith, either as an enquirer, or as a current member of the Catholic Church, please come along to our ***Come & See Group*** time.

For more information contact Ursula & Chris - Tel. 01234 349216

DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are grateful for the presence of our convent sisters among us. For their prayers and all their support.

Contact Shalom Convent Tel: 01234 350794

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

If you feel you would like to be an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion please speak to the Parish Priest.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

If you would like to help with the flowers, please contact Teresa Lovell or Parish Priest.

GARDENING VOLUNTEERS

Our task is to keep the perimeters of the buildings and the borders and edging to paths, weeded and tidy. Our group day is once a month (announced in the newsletter), or whenever you can get here at other times, please feel free!

Contact Parish Priest for more information.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - Guardian of the Home Shrine

If you would like the House Shrine for a week in your own home, please contact Teresa Williams who will arrange this.

Tel. 01234 217201 Email. Teresawilliams2000@hotmail.co.uk

THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA

A Catholic fraternal service organisation and the largest of its kind in Britain. For further information Tel: 01234-400787

Parish Activities and Groups

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic association whose members are giving service to the Church, on a voluntary basis, all over the world.

Legion website - www.legionofmary.ie

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

If you would like to read at Mass please contact Lynn Bunting-Gray for the Saturday 6pm Mass or parish priest for the Sunday Mass 10:30am Mass.

MISSIO

Red Missio Boxes to save your loose change in support of World Missions:

Local contact: John Grogan

Tel: 07773712688. Missio website - ww.missio.org.uk

MUSIC AND CHOIR

Christ the King has a small music group that sings at the Masses to encourage parishioners to express their love for God. We are always looking for new members and musicians, and it doesn't matter whether or not you read music.

We are particularly looking for more singers at the 6pm Mass on Saturday. Times and dates of practices are published in the newsletter. If you are interested in singing and making music in the church, or if you would like to book the choir, an organist or a singer for a special occasion.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

12:30 pm Every Friday in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

Contact Teresa Willams

PARISH FINANCES

Parish Finance Committee - Contact: Chris Brookes

Tel. 01234 349216

Email chris@brookes-family.co.uk

Parish Activities and Groups

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

Dale Bunting-Gray Tel. 07765 427 465

If you have any concerns regarding the well-being of children or vulnerable adults, please contact the safeguarding rep on the above number.

PARISH HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

Email: parish.christthekingbedford@northamptondiocese.org

If you become aware of any hazards in the church, church hall or the grounds, report it to the Parish Priest.

READING GROUP

There is a reading group in the parish. Catholic in choice, we read new and old favourites, plus offer good fellowship and a cup of tea. Contact Rachel Kirkham. Tel. 01234 314093

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 10:30am SUNDAY MASS

Tea or Coffee and a chat after 10:30am Sunday Mass in the Hall.

Also, our Parish Forum is held after the refreshments at about 12 noon dates as shown in the newsletter where you can hear what's happening.

If you would like to help by going onto the Rota to serve tea and coffee please speak to the Parish Priest

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The parish's St Vincent de Paul society meets on Tuesday evenings every fortnight. For more information, please contact Ursula Brookes.

If you require assistance or a home visit from the parish's SVP, please speak to the Parish Priest or contact us via the Parish website.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

Parish Representative: Teresa Williams

Email: Teresawilliams2000@hotmail.co.uk

Tel. 01234 217201

Telephone: (020) 7091 7091

Email: information@spuc.org.uk Website: www.spuc.org.uk

Parish Activities and Groups

USHERS AND GREETERS

Mass welcomers, ushers or greeters and hymn book distribution or collection. Contact Parish Priest for more details.

VINTAGE AFTERNOON TEA

All are welcome on the fourth Friday of every month to enjoy good company, and dancing if you wish, in a traditional English Tea Shop atmosphere at Christ the King Parish Hall, 2pm to 4pm.

We serve tea and cakes on china crockery.

There is a raffle and soft music.

It is a really good afternoon for only £4.

Contact Myriam Tel: 07590 558275

Parish Repository

Please support our stall by the church entrance.
Mass cards, rosaries, candles, and all other religious
gifts are available for you to buy after Mass.

Contact Rosie Opare



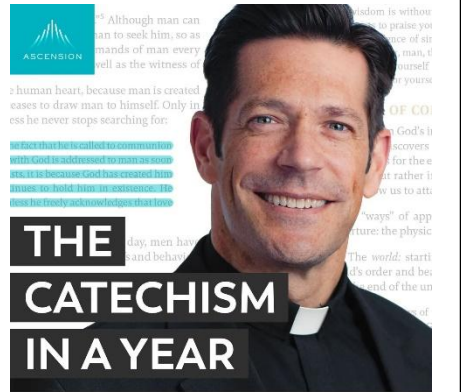
With this podcast, Catholics will:
Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days.
Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter.
See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture.

Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition.
Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness.

Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

If you have ever wanted to **understand what it means to be Catholic** and allow those truths to shape your life—this podcast is for you!

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>



WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

Father God, thank you for our church and its people. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that our church may grow. Help us to see you in everyone we meet and fill our lives with your praise.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on all who share in the life and work of our church and parish: in the ministry of word, prayer and sacrament; in teaching, learning together and pastoral care; in service to our Diocese of Northampton; the community and those in need; in ecumenical fellowship, sharing and co-operation.

We pray for all members of the congregation, that in their life and work they may advance your kingdom and bear witness to your love, shown in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Version 9.6 – March 2026

This Welcome Booklet comes with the warmest greetings of our parish family at Christ the King, Bedford.

As you look through the various entries depicting the worship and social life of our parish, I pray that you will feel you are joining a typical Catholic community expressing our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ with a determination to love and serve Him together.

If you are interested in any particular activity, do please tell me, and I would be delighted to introduce you to those involved.

We are all committed to being part of a thriving church, caring and outward looking, and we will do our best to help you integrate into our fellowship.



At the intercession of our Mother Mary may we all come to know the Joy of the Gospel, in the words of *Pope Francis* '*Evangelii Gaudium*'.

God bless,
Father Richard
Parish Priest
2026

Parish Mission Statement

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out on us at Baptism and Confirmation, we as individual persons and, as a community, hope to be constantly renewed in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ - 'to know Him is to know the Father' (*John 14:9*) - and so fulfil our mission in and for the world.