

Welcome to Christ the King parish,
the Catholic Church in south Bedford.

16th Sunday of the Year 2026

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Schedule for the Week beginning Sunday 19th July 2026

Saturday 18th July

6pm Vigil Mass, Private Intention

Sunday 19th July

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

10.30am Holy Mass, Helen Hendle, anniv.

Tuesday 21st July

6.30pm Holy Mass, the three murdered in Great Denham

7pm - 7.30pm Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 22nd July

10am Holy Mass in Spanish

5pm Parish office hour

Thursday 23rd July

8.30am Holy Mass

Friday 24th July

11am - 11.45am Eucharistic Adoration with Confession available

12 noon Holy Mass

Saturday 24th July

10am - 10.45am Confession available

6pm Vigil Mass,

Last Sunday's Offertory. Collection: £382.47 Standing Orders: £108.40

Total: £490.87

Recent Second Collection: Stella Maris £106.75

Thanks to all who donate to the parish by Standing Order. If you would like to donate in this way, please use these details:

Name: Christ the King Parish. Sort: 600611 Account: 46714332

Offertory Envelopes. There are some spare boxes left from March this year at the back of church. If you would like to start using the envelopes, please take a box, but write down your name and the box number on a piece of paper and give that paper to Fr Richard. Thanks.

The Bedford River Festival takes place this weekend. We ask God's blessing on this very happy and family-friendly event in our town. If you haven't yet experienced it - don't miss out! And to all our families, we wish you a restful and grace-filled holiday season.

A few weeks ago we had a meeting for parents of under 18s who are seeking the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for them. Fr Richard will be contacting the parents again this month so that we can look at starting the preparation soon.

2026 is the Franciscan Jubilee Year, marking 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi. The parish in Shefford is the only parish in our Pastoral Area dedicated to this saint, and our parish has been invited to visit St Francis' in Shefford on Saturday 26th September.

Readers, please observe the pauses between the parts of the Liturgy of the Word. So, after the 1st Reading pause for 8 seconds.

After the Psalm, pause for 8 seconds.

After the second reading and before the Alleluia, pause for 8 seconds.

The Church asks for these pauses, which we practiced some months ago, and which give us all "an opportunity to take the Word of God to heart and to prepare a response to it in prayer."

Holy Mass in Spanish, this Wednesday, 22nd July at 10am. We extend a warm invitation to Spanish speaking Catholics to the Mass and to refreshments afterwards.

The Diocese of Northampton, Registered Charity No 234091

We are very grateful to the **Community Voluntary Services Agency** of Bedfordshire for their recent donation to the parish of a Portable Defibrillator. This device can be used when there is a need for it in either the hall or the church. Training in its use is helpful, but the instructions for use, on the device, must be followed. It is presently located on the wall just inside the main area of the parish hall.

March for Life

This year it takes place on Saturday 5th September. Fourteen Catholic bishops will be taking part and there will be age-appropriate sessions for children, teens, and youth throughout the morning.

We are planning to travel from our parish via train to London. For more information about the day visit marchforlife.co.uk

Recent clarifications by the Holy See on Freemasonry are worth noting. The history of these clarifications over recent decades is as follows:

Until 1983, Catholics who became members of Masonic organisations were automatically excommunicated.

In 1983 the Holy See, in its Declaration on Masonic Associations, stated that "Catholics who enrol in Masonic Associations are in a state of grave sin and cannot receive Holy Communion."

In 2023, the the Holy See reaffirmed its universal teaching that Catholics cannot become Freemasons as Freemasonry is incompatible with the Catholic Faith.

In June 2026, the Nordic bishops in consultation with the Holy See reaffirmed that there can be no exceptions to this ban.

Since the start of June, it has been a very busy time in the parish. We held a lovely social event, and a couple of workshops, and Fr Richard has been involved in giving lots of catecheses. There have been many callers and enquiries at the house. Moreover, a lot of work has been done on the fabric of the parish and in terms of statutory compliance. Peter has been as the centre of this necessary work and, on behalf of the whole parish we thank him. Hopefully the rest of July and August will be much less busy and gentler.

Developing the music during the Mass

You will have noticed that we are still developing the two decisions that we made at Liturgy Meetings in the parish early last year.

The first decision was to be more discerning about the choice of hymns for Mass. Our Hymn Book contains hymns and songs which are sung in all the main Christian churches, it also contains hymns and songs for a variety of contexts: prayer meetings, children's assemblies, Praise and Worship, Liturgy, rallies and events, times of meditation and devotion etc. What we need are hymns that are suitable for the celebration of the Mass. So we trying to be more discerning about the choice of hymns, picking those which are genuinely suited to the Liturgy. These are hymns and songs that lead us into the Mystery - the action of Christ in the Mass - rather than hymns and songs that are written for other contexts and can easily lead us into our own personal realm and away from what Christ is doing in the Mass. Those hymns and songs which are properly for contexts other than the Mass, we can use when such occasions arise; prayer meetings, events, children's activities, etc. We have also introduced the sung Introit at some Masses. This opening chant of the Mass helpfully leads us into the Mystery being celebrated. It is worthwhile remembering that the Church asks us first to sing the Liturgy of the Mass, and only after that to include hymns.

The other decision we made was to learn and incorporate new hymns into our repertoire, which we are gradually doing.

We are very pleased that we are going to incorporate anew, a Cameroonian choir on some Sundays at 10.30am Mass, beginning in August.

Last week Fr Richard celebrated his 38th anniversary of ordination. I was pleased from the outset that I was ordained on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and, annually, delight in celebrating the Mass in her honour on the day. This year I was honoured in being able to celebrate this day with some members of my family.