

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

The 23rd Sunday of the Year, 2026

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We are full of gratitude to God for the gift of Faith that we have received from Him. The supernatural virtue of Faith dwells within our intellect, the purpose of which is to help us believe the truths God has revealed.

Today, our parish community is more diverse than it has ever been before, and people of all ages enrich the experience of our much loved older parishioners. Moreover, people continue to come to faith, and we try to support them as they make their first steps in faith. We have our OCIA programme for adults seeking baptism, and also, this Autumn, we are offering a general catechesis to any parishioner who would like to respond to this invitation.

Open door. On Wednesdays, 5 - 6.30pm, the church is open to offer a welcome, and for prayer, and for any enquiry.

The saints, our friends in Christ, model the Faith and the Church for us. The relics of four saints are enshrined in the altar. Let us honour them:

2. **St John de Brebeuf.** This French Jesuit missionary travelled to New France, what is now Canada, in 1625 to make the Gospel known to native Americans. He had a marvellous ministry to them for many years, but in 1649 he was ritually tortured and killed by the Iroquois. He was 55. His commitment to Christ's mission and to the peoples of that part of North America is, by any standards, remarkable, and it laid an immediate foundation of faith amongst those same Iroquois following his martyrdom - they who had known him personally. Read more about him on the internet and think of him when you take part in the Mass here. He remembers us before God's throne!

The Diocese of Northampton, Registered Charity No 234091

Schedule for the Week beginning Sunday 6th September 2026

Saturday 5th September

6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 6th September

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

10.30am Holy Mass, the deceased members of the Burke family

Tuesday 8th September

7.15pm Holy Mass

Wednesday 9th September

10am Holy Mass, Private intention

5pm - 6.30pm Open door

Thursday 10th September

6.30pm Holy Mass, Private intention

Friday 11th September

11am - 11.45am Eucharistic Adoration with Confession available

12 noon Holy Mass

Saturday 12th September Bike n' Hike Day

10am - 10.45am Adoration and Confession available

2pm Holy Mass in Spanish, those who suffered in the earthquakes in Colombia and Venezuela

6pm Vigil Mass

Last Sunday's Offertory. Collection: £520.64 Standing Orders: £128.50

Dona device: £21.00 Total: £670.14

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

Hymns: Entrance 187, Offertory 399, Communion 329, Final 156

The Novena to Our Lady of Walsingham begins on 16th September.

A Catechesis on the Christian life. We are hosting a series of talks exploring the Christian faith. These will begin on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.30 pm in the Church. Everyone is welcome, those who are curious or simply interested in discovering more. 16 - 18 year olds must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Welcomers' workshop. Hospitality and welcome lie at the heart of any parish. We are hosting a workshop on Wednesday 16th September at 7pm in the portacabin. We hope to develop this ministry in the parish, so please do come to this workshop and be a part of that development.

Regina Caeli Academy. In the village of Meppershall, near Shefford, is a foundation of the Regina Caeli Academy, which offers a hybrid curriculum to children of home-schooling parents. Full details are on their website: rcahybrid.org.uk. Some of our parishioners have said this about their experience of the school: "The sense of community among families is very warm and supportive, and the Catholic Faith is woven naturally in every aspect of the children's education. Our children look forward to each academy day and they come home inspired and eager to share what they have learned."

First Communion parents' meeting. Families are at the heart of the Church and here at Christ the King we seek to equip parents to share the faith within their families. So, we place the sacraments in their proper context - how we live our Christian lives, rather than isolating the sacraments from life and making First Communion the moment when a life of faith comes to an end.

This meeting is for practicing parishioners, whose children who are now 8 years old, and who now wish to develop the Christian initiation of their children through Confession and Holy Communion. The meeting is on Wednesday 23rd September at 7pm in the portacabin.

The Guild of St Stephen, is offering a course for adult altar servers. Full details are on their website: guildofststephen.org/certificate.

The Bike n'Hike event takes place this coming Saturday, 12th September.

Our church cleaning teams do a great job on Saturday mornings, and we are indebted to their dedication. We do need to supply our teams with new members; could you spare an hour on a Saturday morning once a month? Please contact Martin or Fr Richard.

Thanks to all who, earlier this year, changed the details of their Standing Order from the Diocesan account to the Parish account. It is very helpful to us if your Standing Order is made to the Parish account.

If you know that your Standing Order is made to the Diocesan account, and you are happy to change to details to the Parish account, this would be a great help. It is very difficult for the Finance Committee to know who has a Standing Order with us, if it is made to the Diocese. It is equally difficult then, for us to match Standing Orders with those who Gift Aid.

If you would like to start giving to the parish by Standing Order, the details of the Parish account are on the other side of this newsletter.

Four Catenian Circles in our area reignite their Association. Members of the four Circles of Harpenden, Luton & District, Bedford, Milton Keynes and Northampton are meeting together at a venue in Newport Pagnell on August 26th to reestablish long standing links between the four Circles in a spirit of faith, family and friendship. They will also be joined by brothers (as we are known) from Chiltern Circle, Banbury, Bicester and South Bucks Circles. If you would like to know more about how to become a Catenian, then email: bedford177@btinternet.com

Book recommendations for men:

Neal Lozano, *Abba's heart*, 2015, Chosen Books

Neal Lozano, *The older brother returns*, 2021, Jubilee Studio 33

Both these books focus of the tremendous identity that all men are called to embrace: being beloved sons of the Eternal Father.

Also, visit heartofthefather.com

And for men who really enjoy meat and potato pie, you could read: Saint Augustine of Hippo, *The Confessions*, Translation by Sister Maria Boulding OSB, A Translation for the 21st Century.