

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

The 26th Sunday of the Year, 2026

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As this week begins, let us pray for our parish:

God our Father, pour forth your Spirit upon Christ the King parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service. May your love grow among us and your Kingdom come. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Open door. On Wednesdays, 5 - 6.30pm, the church is open to offer a welcome, and for prayer, and for any enquiry. Also this Wednesday, the Blessed sacrament will be exposed on the altar from 7pm to 9pm.

The saints model the Faith and the Church for us. One of the most influential saints is **St Francis of Assisi**, who lived from 1181 to 1226. This year is a Jubilee Year of St Francis because next Sunday, 4th October 2026, is the 800th anniversary of his death. St Francis' personal conversion brought about a movement of conversion within the Church and laid the foundations for the various Franciscan Orders.

We held the pilgrimage to our neighbouring parish, St Francis' in Shefford on Saturday 26th September. And, on Saturday 31st October we are invited to another Franciscan event at Holy Cross church in Bedford, from 2pm to 4pm, led by Fr Emmanuel Mansford CFR.

Both these events hold a plenary indulgence, as does taking part in any Franciscan event this year. A plenary indulgence removes all temporal punishment due to sins that have already been forgiven. To gain the indulgence, which you can apply to yourself or a soul in purgatory, you simply take part in the event and, within a week, receive Holy Communion, Confession, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, all in a spirit of detachment from sin.

The Diocese of Northampton, Registered Charity No 234091

Schedule for the Week beginning Sunday 27th September 2026

Saturday 26th September

6pm Vigil Mass, the St Joseph's men's group

Sunday 27th September

8.30am Holy Mass (Latin), Nigel Kennedy, RIP

10.30am Holy Mass, the faithful of the parish

Tuesday 29th September

5.15pm Holy Mass, for those who are coming to Christ

7.30pm A catechesis on the Christian life, in the church

Wednesday 30th September

10am Holy Mass, SL

5pm - 6.30pm Open door

7pm - 9pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in the church

Thursday 1st October

6.30pm Holy Mass, Private intention

7.30pm A catechesis on the Christian life, in the church

Friday 2nd October

11am - 11.45am Eucharistic Adoration with Confession available

12 noon Holy Mass,

Saturday 3rd October

8.30am Men's "St Joseph" meeting in the church

10.05am - 10.30am Confession available.

6pm Vigil Mass

Last Sunday's Offertory. Collection: £403.24 Standing Orders: £128.50

Dona device: £37 Total: £568.74. Home Mission Collection: £159.10

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

The St Vincent de Paul Society thanks all parishioners who so generously gave to the recent SVP annual appeal. This enables us to help people locally whenever we can.

Hymns: Entrance 88, Offertory 90, Communion 513, Final 183

There are some very good books about St Francis of Assisi:

G.K. Chesterton, *St Francis of Assisi*, Hodder and Stoughton

Omer Englebert, *St Francis of Assisi, a biography*, Servant Publications

Elizabeth Goudge, *My God and my all*, Hodder and Stoughton

Dietrich von Hildebrand, *Image of Christ*, Franciscan University

Also, we can acquaint ourselves with the writings of St Francis himself, which are all available online at:

<https://www.liturgies.net/saints/francis/writings.htm> I would especially recommend reading the five Letters that he wrote to various people; these are all accessible on this website.

St Francis of Assisi continues to inspire and influence people throughout the Church, and his prayers are sought by countless souls across the globe. This is the prayer composed by Pope John Paul II to St Francis:

O Saint Francis,

who received the wounds of Christ at Mount La Verna,
the world longs for you, that icon of our crucified Lord.

It has need of your heart, open always to God and to others;
of your bare, wounded feet, of your pierced hands raised in supplication.
It longs for your voice so frail yet forceful with the power of the Gospel.

O Saint Francis, help the people of our age
to recognise the evil of sin and to seek purification from it in penance.
Help us to become free from the structures of sin that oppress our world.
Rekindle in the consciences of those in government
an urgent need for peace between nations and peoples.
Instil in our young people your freshness of life, that is so capable of
withstanding the snares of the culture of death.

O Saint Francis, teach those injured by every type of evil
the joy of being able to forgive.

Teach those crucified by suffering, hunger, and war
the joys of reopening the doors of hope. Help us, you who brought Christ
so close to your age. Help us to bring Christ close to our age, to our
difficult and critical times. *Amen.*

Thanks to those who took part in the Welcomers' Workshop last week. It was a very helpful session and has paved the way for us to develop this aspect of our parish. We remember how Pope Francis used to remind us that parishes must not be gossipy or self-referential, nor should they be populated by cliques or by people who focus on their own preferences. Here at Christ the King, it is good that we are looking at our parish as a community where we would like everyone to be doing something, rather than just a few doing everything.

Charity events in the parish.

This is a note to any parishioners who hold events in support of independent Charities on parish premises. The Charities require two things of organisers:

1. That monies raised are counted on site by two independent people and the amount raised made public at the event.
2. That on submitting the monies to the Charity a receipt will be issued. A copy of the receipt should be given to the parish office so that the funds raised on our premises for that Charity can be made public.

It is right that Charities should expect a certain professionalism at events held in their name. Events which raise money for the parish itself require only the first of these protocols, as these monies raised at these events are then paid directly into the parish account. The parish will, of course, make public the amount raised.

Thanks also go to the parishioners who have updated the parish priests' plaque at the back of the church.

Consecration to St Joseph. Some men of the parish began a 33-day consecration to St Joseph on Tuesday 29th September, and we finish on Saturday 31st October, the eve of All Saints. The men's group meets on Saturday mornings at 8.30am during the Novena.

Parents are invited to an Open Morning on Saturday 3rd October, 10am - 12 noon, at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School in Biddenham, and to get a true feel of school life.

Do you have a particular saint that you would like to flag up for us?