

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

The 27th 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.

The saints model the Faith and the Church for us. One of the many Franciscan saints, of our era, is **Blessed Solanus Casey** of the Capuchin Franciscans in America, who lived from 1870 to 1957. Because he struggled at his studies, he was ordained as a 'simplex' priest, never preaching or hearing confessions. In fact, for many years he was given the humble job of being porter or door-keeper in various friaries, yet he managed to achieve in his earthly life the goal of full service to God. Read about him on the internet.

The Friday afternoon Vintage Tea at Christ the King. This lovely, monthly event has taken place in our parish hall for many years and has been run in support of the parish. Like other initiatives, staff eventually dwindle and the remaining personnel find it increasingly hard to manage the event. As many of you know, Myriam is the main organiser of the event, but we can't leave the weight of this initiative on her shoulders. Would you like to be involved, assisting, setting up, welcoming, and of course, clearing away at the end? We certainly can't leave Myriam unsupported. Please speak with her or with Fr Richard.

Consecration to St Joseph. Our men's 33-day consecration to St Joseph is underway. We are carrying many intentions with us during these days, and we meet together on Saturday at 8.30am.

The Diocese of Northampton, Registered Charity No 234091

Schedule for the Week beginning Sunday 4th October 2026

Saturday 3rd October

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

Sunday 4th October

8.30am Holy Mass (Latin), Roger Kennedy

10.30am Holy Mass, the faithful of the parish

Monday 5th October

8.00am Holy Mass, Thommy Thomas, anniv

Tuesday 6th October

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

Thursday 8th October

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

Friday 9th October

7pm Holy Mass, Private Intention

Saturday 10th 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: £554.92 Standing Orders: £158.00

Dona device: £20 Total: £732.92

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

A Quiz Night in support of the Chosen Charity. Saturday 24th October at 7.30pm. Tickets are available after Masses and on the door.

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

Hymns: Entrance 478, Offertory 58, Communion 228, Final 628

The Council of Ministries met again two weeks ago. It is made up of representatives from all the groups in the parish, each group choosing and sending its own representative, although at this meeting less than half the parish groups were represented. The purpose of this Council is twofold: to develop the vision of the parish and to develop communication within the parish.

Reports from groups:

The SVP. There are presently 143 beneficiaries of the parish SVP Conference, which meets fortnightly. Referrals can be made directly to any member of the SVP.

The Shop. This is functioning well and seeks to highlight new stock regularly.

The Readers. The Readers Rota is well established, but we would like to attach new Readers.

The Choir. Is also looking for new members.

Having previously undertaken a SWOT analysis of two aspects of the parish; Community and Evangelisation, in this meeting we looked at **Discipleship**: That the parish is not a static thing but a movement of Christian life, enabling its members to grow in Christ and use their gifts.

Strengths: An environment of friendliness creates good soil for the parish. Welcoming new-comers and directing them helpfully is a good foundation.

Weaknesses: We noted our lack of trained personnel, and we acknowledge that we don't speak easily about our Faith.

Opportunities: the location of our church and facilities is very favourable. The beginning of a new school year and the various sacramental stages are opportunities for us to develop, and again, these opportunities require personnel and planning.

Threats: There is a 'soft' fear of Christianity in our culture, and there is the perennial need for us to make the parish appear, and be, a 'safe space'. Also, the fact that we don't have anyone presently training to be catechists or leaders of formation, and that we have not embraced a parish strategy for discipleship, is concerning.

The various parish groups are going to prepare a brief, written piece about themselves, which we can use in the parish to shed light on our vision and to better enable communication. We have also developed a vision for the groups to use for their own development.

We flagged up again the basic GDPR requirements that we are obliged to follow as an organisation.

We spoke about H&S. There were no particular concerns from any of the groups. But we are developing a strategy for response in the event of a fire in either the church or the hall, and all church and hall users will be briefed about this in due course. Also, the Fire Door in church by the font will be upgraded in due course.

We spoke about holding a Christmas Fayre this year. No plans were made at the meeting. If anyone is interested in developing this idea, please contact Fr Richard soon.

We spoke about planning for a Parish Forum later this year. The members of the Council are looking for someone who can act as a Chair for this meeting. (Holding such a meeting depends on there being someone who will act as Chair.) The Council of Ministries will meet again in the new year.

It is important that any parishioner feel that he or she can comment on or add to the SWOT analysis which this Council made. The way that we understand and develop discipleship at Christ the King is for everyone to be a part of. The two aspects of parish life that we are still to consider are Ministry and Worship.

The month of October is marked by praying the Holy Rosary in honour of Our Lady. There was a time in this country when anyone seen carrying a Rosary would have been arrested and possibly fined or imprisoned. Those days are gone, and this year the Holy Father has asked Catholics worldwide to pray the Rosary for peace. We can also remember what Blessed Fulton Sheen once said: "that Our Blessed Lord gave ten times as much of his life to her, as he gave to his apostles."