

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

The 29th Sunday of the Year, 2026

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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. Wednesdays, 5 - 6pm, the church is open to offer a welcome, and for prayer, and for any enquiry.

The saints model the Faith and the Church for us, they offer us a concrete example of living the life of Christ. October is the month when we traditionally remember the 40 Martyrs of the English Reformation. This era saw an extraordinary blossoming of the Church in this country. In fact, there are 42 canonised saints, 242 beatified saints, and 73 venerable martyrs just from this era, which broadly spans 1534 to 1681. Amongst them is **St Margaret Clitherow**, a butcher's wife from York. At 18 she became a Catholic, when it was forbidden to do so and then aided priests in the city of York. She was apprehended on several occasions and finally brought to trial for supporting Catholic priests. Because she refused to plead at her trial, she was sentenced to be pressed to death under weights. This was in 1586, and she was 30 years old, carrying her fourth child when she died. She had an extraordinary courage in the face of the entire local and State structure of her day, publicly defending the Catholic faith and priesthood. Read about her on the internet or read her biography by Margaret Munro, *St Margaret Clitherow, The Pearl of York*. Her life, and her words at her trial, speak for us, whether we are at Mass or whether we are about our daily business.

Our men's 33-day consecration to St Joseph is currently underway and finishes on Saturday 31st October, the eve of All Saints.

Schedule for the Week beginning Sunday 18th October 2026

Saturday 17th October

6pm Vigil Mass, the faithful of the parish

Sunday 18th October

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

10.30am Holy Mass, Agnes Tateh, anniv, Joe and Mia Reynolds, anniv.

Tuesday 20th October

5.15pm Holy Mass, Kevin Cush RIP

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

Wednesday 21st October

10am Holy Mass, St Joseph's men's group

5pm - 6pm Open door

Thursday 22nd October

6.30pm Holy Mass, Private intention

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

Friday 23rd October

11am - 11.45am Eucharistic Adoration with Confession available

12 noon Holy Mass,

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

Saturday 24th 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: £527.52 Standing Orders: £128.50

Dona device: £35 Total: £691.02

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 21, Offertory 147, Communion 355, Final 628

The Diocese of Northampton, Registered Charity No 234091

One of the great responsibilities of our parish is to hand on the faith to the next generation and to those who are discovering Christ for the first time. As the parish grows and as we look to the future, we are now looking for new catechists, people who are willing to be trained and then to share their faith.

We are looking particularly for catechists who could work with children, with teens, with families, or with adults. There are a range of training opportunities for those who would like to become catechists, and we can also look to discuss funding for such training.

If this is something that you already feel a call to, or perhaps wonder if this might be a new step for you to take, please do speak with Fr Richard.

Can You Help Our Children Grow in Faith?

We are looking for more volunteers to help us run Tiny Church and Children's Liturgy every Sunday. Could you spare a little of your time to help our youngest parishioners discover and grow in their faith in a fun and welcoming way? You don't need to be an expert — just enthusiasm and a willingness to help! We'll support you, provide guidance and help you grow into the role. We would love to hear from you! Please speak to Fr Richard if you could join the team.

World Mission Collection, today, Sunday 18th October, there is a retiring collection for the work of *Missio*, the Church's international mission organisation.

As you know, John Grogan has stepped down as the parish's *Missio* secretary. We are extremely grateful to John, who has held this role for many years, looking after parishioners and serving *Missio*. Would you, or a small team, like to take up this role?

The parish secretary for *Missio*, manages the Red Boxes of parishioners, ensuring that the monies collected are deposited in the bank, and distributes the quarterly magazine, *Mission Today*.

Could you do this? More information can be found on missio.org.uk

The parish is advertising for a **part-time Parish Administrator**, a voluntary role with all expenses paid, to give administrative support to the background, management of the parish. The role requires organisational, communication, and IT skills. Please contact Fr Richard if you would like to discuss this further.

The parish is advertising for a **part-time Hall Supervisor**. This is a voluntary role with all expenses paid, to oversee on-site, management of the hall, ensuring it is a welcoming, safe, and maintained facility for parish and community use. The role envisages someone who has the availability to make some on-site, visits to the hall each week. Please contact Fr Richard if you would like to discuss this further.

The parish is advertising for a **part-time PA** to the parish priest. It is a voluntary role with all expenses paid, to provide confidential, administrative, and organisational support to the pp, managing diary, appointments, correspondence, communications, coordinating meetings and activities. The role envisages organisational, communication, and IT skills. Please contact Fr Richard if you would like to discuss this further.

October - the month of the Holy Rosary. Our Lady points us, leads us, accompanies us in this prayer, and in this great prayer we can include any petition, any need, any expression of love for God.

2027 is a Jacobean Jubilee Year and the Bedfordshire Pastoral Area is proposing to run a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Sept/Oct 2027. Parishioners interested in joining the pilgrimage should contact Deacon Crispin (deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org) for more information. Pilgrims will need to be independent and capable of walking 115km over six days, carrying their own pack. Accommodation will be in shared dormitories in backpacker hostels, and the estimated cost of the pilgrimage is £550/person.

Quiz Night in support of the Chisen Charity, Saturday 24th October.

The Cinema of Grace. The next showing will be the film, 'Sophie Scholl', Friday 30th October, 7pm, in the portacabin.