Heart to Heart

Newsletter of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Luton
Diocese of Northampton, Deanery of St Alban

Year C - Sunday 1st December 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Allan R. Jones, CRIC, M.A., MTh.
Assistant Parish Priest: Rev Dr James M. Cassidy, CRIC
Parish Deacon: Rev James Bannan
Parish Secretary: Bernadette Horsted

Parish Info: www.sacredheartluton.org
Diocesan Info: www.northamptondiocese.org
Pastoral Area Info: www.lutonpastoralarea.org
Registered Charity Number: 234091

Address: 148 Ashcroft Road, Stopsley, Luton, Beds., LU2 9AY
Parish Office: parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
Parish Hall: hall.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
Safeguarding: safeguarding.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
Free Redundancy Coaching Info: www.vitaeopus.co.uk

Parish Office: 01582 723099
Sacred Heart Primary School: 01582 287480
Cardinal Newman School: 01582 597125
L&D Hospital Chaplain: 01582 663706
Hospice Chaplain: 01582 502400

Saturday 30th November	5.45pm 6.00pm - 6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Mary Dolan RIP	**St Andrew, Apostle** **Patron Saint of Scotland**
Sunday 1st December	8.15am 9.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayer People of our Parish Faried Fazilahmed (Birthday)	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Monday 2nd December	9.30am	Andrew (Healing)	
Tuesday 3rd December	9.30am	Dolores Ozyer-Key RIP	**St Francis Xavier** **Priest**
Wednesday 4th December	9.30am	Mary Regan RIP	
Thursday 5th December	9.30am	Pamela Hennessy RIP	
Friday 6th December KS2 joins us for Mass	9.30am	Nicola Burke RIP	**St Nicholas** **Bishop**
Saturday 7th December	5.45pm 6.00pm - 6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Pat Brennan RIP	**St Ambrose** **Bishop, Doctor of the Church**
Sunday 8th December	8.15am 9.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayer Judy and Wesley Weekes (Wedding Anniversary) People of Our Parish	**SECOND SUNDAY** **OF ADVENT**

MASS INTENTIONS: Mass intentions sometimes have to be moved due to unforeseen circumstances, such as funerals. Mass Intentions will be honoured on alternative dates. Please leave a contact number when requesting intentions and check the weekly Newsletter.

CONFESSION: Confessions are available 6.00pm - 6.20pm every Saturday or by appointment.

DRESSING OF THE PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE: We will be dressing the parish Christmas tree after the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 11th December. All pairs of hands are very welcome.

RETIREMENT OF FR JAMES: Fr James will be leaving Luton later this week for a stay in Rome before retiring to a convent. He thanks all parishioners for their friendship over the past 2½ years. Next Sunday he hopes to be celebrating Mass with the Pope in St. Peter's, and will remember Sacred Heart parish and Luton in that Mass.

BLESSING OF LECTIONARIES: The new ESV-CE Lectionaries we will be using from this First Sunday of Advent onwards will be blessed at the 11.00am Mass this Sunday. We offer our sincerest thanks for your generosity in contributing to the purchase of these lectionaries.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER - FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: If you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or to ask for a relative/friend then please contact Fr Allan or email the Parish Office.

FORTHCOMING FUNERAL DETAILS:
Walter Leu RIP, REQUIEM - 10.00am Thursday **12th December** - Sacred Heart
Catherine Philomena O'Reilly, REQUIEM - 11.00am on Friday **13th December** - Sacred Heart

THE SPIRITANS COLLECTION 17th NOVEMBER 2024: The Holy Ghost Fathers thank parishioners for their generous donations totalling £902.24 over the 16th/17th November weekend, greatly increasing their ability to bring Christ to the poorest and most neglected and responding to their cries for help. Please see the thank you letter on the noticeboard.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: The final document from the XVI ordinary general assembly of the synod of bishops (second session) has now been released in English. You can read the document here **https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26_final-document/ENG---Documento-finale_traduzione-di-lavoro.pdf**

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY: The consultation period for St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust's proposed updated Primary School Admission Policy for admissions in **September 2026** is open until **31 December 2024.** It affects five local Catholic primary schools: Sacred Heart, St Margaret of Scotland, St Martin de Porres, St Mary's and St Vincent's. Policy details can be found at **https://www.stcat.co.uk/trust-governance/consultation/**. If you want a hard copy or have comments to make regarding the proposed policy, please contact Maxine Gilmartin at **consultation@stcat.co.uk** or by post at St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School, Pastures Way, Luton, LU4 0PF.

CATHOLIC SHOOLS RESEARCH STUDY: St Mary's and Swansea Universities are researching how parents in Catholic schools in England and Wales support young people's learning and how school staff and clergy can support parents and families. To participate please go to
For parents: **https://swanseasom.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0vPWbihodeZxdsy**
For school staff: **https://swanseasom.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6YbftWbTtjeF2Tk**
For clergy: **https://swanseasom.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6tbDmYIw6L6gOJU**

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT: There will be an online Advent Retreat Monday **2nd December**, 7.30pm entitled 'Doorways of Grace', with Canon John Udris and Avril Baigent where we turn to the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica, exploring the person of Peter, who, despite his moments of failure and betrayal, Jesus loved and made leader of his church. What might we learn from his life and relationship with the Lord? Find out more and register here at **https://northamptondiocese.org/doorways**.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SUNDAY: Our annual Christmas Jumper Sunday will be **22nd December** at the 11.00am Mass. Fr Allan will be judging the winning jumper after Mass in the parish hall.

CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE: You are welcome to the school's Carol Service is on Monday **9th December** from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. To book a free ticket go to **https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cns-carol-service-tickets-1096083678789?aff=oddtdtcreator**

PACT ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: You are invited to join the Prison Advice and Care Trust annual Advent Carol Service from 7pm to 9pm on **3rd December** at Our Lady of Victories Church, London, W8 in solidarity with those affected by imprisonment. The Rt Rev Richard Moth, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton and Liaison Bishop for Prisons and The Rt Rev Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, Anglican Bishop for Prisons will be presiding and Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir will lead the music, with refreshments after the service. To register to attend go to **https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pacts-advent-carol-service-2024-registration-1037880236727?aff=oddtdtcreator**

CAROLS IN THE MALL: You will be welcome to join carol singers from NTCG Luton Worship Team between 10.30am and 11.15am on Saturday **14th December** for a carol service in the Arndale Centre at the Luton Point, Smith's Square (outside Lidl) sponsored by Luton Point, Churches Together in Luton and Luton Community Chaplaincy.

PEACE LIGHT SERVICE: There will be a multi-faith event to welcome and distribute the Light from Bethlehem to promote peace throughout Luton at 7.30pm on **17th December** at All Saint Church, Shaftsbury Avenue Luton LU4 8AH.

SACRED HEART PARISH THURSDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER: Please join us on Thursday **19th December** at 12.00pm Noon for the Thursday Club free Christmas Dinner after the usual 10.00am tea and bingo session. All members, old and new, are very welcome.

CHRISTMAS CRIB: The Christmas crib collection this year will go to 'Embrace', a Christian development charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East. For more information go to Embrace's website **https://embraceme.org/** The crib will be up from around the **16th December** until **2nd February**.

REMEMBER ME: A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE: 'Remember Me' is a document on criminal justice by the Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, exploring contemporary issues of criminal justice in the light of Catholic social teaching. For more go to **https://www.cbcew.org.uk/remember-me/**

YOUNG CATHOLICS CURRY NIGHT: If you're 18-35 come along to Ashiyana on Birdsfoot Lane on Saturday **14th December** to get to know other young Catholics from across Luton over a delicious curry. Please email: **parish.stjosephluton@northamptondiocese** for more info.

'THE WELL' IN LUTON: You are invited to join this evening of prayer and formation on Tuesday **4th December** at 7.30pm at St John's Catholic Church in Luton. The theme is Prophecy and a team from Cor et lumen Christi will give a teaching on the gift of prophecy and a practical demonstration.

40 HOURS DEVOTION: You are invited to a 40 Hours Devotion for the renewal of the Church in Luton on Monday **9th and 10th December** at St Joseph's, Gardenia Avenue and Our Lady's, Castle Street. Masses at St. Joseph's **Monday 9th December** at 10.00am and 7.00pm. Please contact Our Lady's or St. Joseph's to sign up for Adoration.

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP COURSE: The Diocese is offering a year-long leadership training course beginning in **January 2025**, called the Bethsaida Leadership Course for any formal or informal leaders in parishes to build confidence to take a lead with Parish activities. For more info go to **https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/bethsaida-leadership-course/**.

SAFEGUARDING: Bishop David Oakley is available to meet in private discussion in a safe environment with anyone affected by abuse and their families or supporters by contacting safeguarding office on 01604 723514 or email **safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org**

BECOMING A TEACHER: If you are interested in training to become a teacher, St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust is hosting a series of open mornings in December and January for you to find out all about their Train to Teach programme starting in **September 2025**. To find out more and to book a place at an open morning, visit **www.stcat.co.uk/become-a-teacher**
DIOCESAN PATRONAL FEAST: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David at our Cathedral at Noon on **9th December**.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e **24th November 2024** - Envelopes: £495.23; Loose cash: £320.55; Total: £815.78. Thank you. As many already do, you can Gift Aid your donation, enabling us to claim from the government an extra 25p for every £1 you donate at no extra cost to you. You can also donate by card via the DONA Machine located in the church.

LUX 2025: LUX is an annual residential weekend for young people aged 11 - 18yrs. In 2025 it will take place **5th - 7th February** at Sion Catholic Community, Brentwood. The theme for LUX this year is Hope in-line with the theme for the Jubilee year, exploring what Hope means for young people today, using the life and travel of St. Paul to guide us. Bookings are now live on the NYMO website **https://nymo.org/lux-hope-2025/**. Included in the cost is accommodation, food, and social activities (e.g. high ropes, inflatable obstacle courses etc). We have a maximum capacity of 60 this year, so make sure you book sooner rather than later to avoid missing out. Contact **NYMO.admin@northamtondiocese.com** to find out more.

NYMO YOUTH MINISTRY - FLAME 2025: Flame 2025 will be on **15th March 2025** at the OVO Arena, Wembley for people aged 14 - 25. The bookings and tickets for Flame 2025 are now live on the NMYO website **nymo.org/flame-2025.** There are 2 options for buying tickets: entrance only tickets (£29) or entrance + transport tickets (£48). There are a limited number of these early bird tickets available and once they are all sold, prices will increase to £31 for entrance tickets, and £50 for entrance + transport. To secure your places you will need to both submit a booking form and purchase tickets. Transport pick-up points will be: Northampton, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, Luton, Slough, and High Wycombe. To find out more contact **NYMO.admin@northamtondiocese.com**.

RIP: Please remember all who have died recently, especially Lurleen and Walter Leu, Catherine O'Reilly, Nicola Burke and Theresa Hurley. Please keep them, their families and their friends in your thoughts and prayers.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
John Fitzsimmons 1969; Franci Anthony Mcalliney 2020; Maria Aradi 1978;
Margery McGrath 2000; David Christie Mulhall Barber 2016; Baby John McGettigan 1964;
Winifred Whittaker 1994; Antonio Barbato 1994; Mary Hay 1998; Veronica West 2003;
Denis Roache 2005; Alfred Barnes 1959; Delores Rodriguez 1969; Peter Lyons 2022;
Annie Mulholland 1971; Kate Fagan 1978; Thomas Brewerton 1999;
William John (Billy) Purcell 2016; Bridget Walsh 1959; Mary McLoughlin 1969;
Mary Dolan 1988; Theresa Caldbeck 1991; Julia Walsh 1969; John Nugent 1974;
Joseph Early 2014; Joseph Gilheaney 1987; Marcella Franklin 1965;
Francis McCrudden 1983; Stephan Curtis 1996; Sarah Garlick 1998.
✠ **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.**

CASPAR PARISH REGISTRATION: From **1st January 2025** all parishes in our diocese can only use the CASPAR system to retain parishioner details. If you have not done so already, please go to **www.caspar.church/me?ID=56040** or use the QR code on the right to register. Alternatively, if you do not have necessary technology, please contact the parish office to have your registration completed on your behalf.