Heart to Heart

Newsletter of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Luton
Diocese of Northampton, Deanery of St Alban
Registered Charity Number: 234091

YEAR A – Sunday 30th November 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Allan R. Jones, CRIC, M.A., MTh.
Parish Deacon: Rev James Bannan (On Sabbatical)
Parish Secretary: Bernadette Horsted

Parish Info: www.sacredheartluton.org
Diocesan Info: www.northamptondiocese.org
Pastoral Area Info: www.lutonpastoralarea.org

Address: 148 Ashcroft Road, Stopsley, Luton, Beds., LU2 9AY
Parish Office: parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
Parish Hall: hallbookings.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 497370
Hospice Chaplain: 01582 502400

Saturday 29th November	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions People of Our Parish	
Sunday 30th November **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees** **BAPTISM**	Morning Prayer Deceased Members of DaCosta Family RIP & DeSouza Family RIP Mary Dolan RIP **Sofiyah Russo**	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Monday 1st December	9.30am	Brian Riley RIP	
Tuesday 2nd December	9.30am	Ann Walsh RIP	
Wednesday 3rd December	9.30am	John Brady RIP	**St Francis Xavier, Priest**
Thursday 4th December	**NO MASS**		
Friday 5th December	9.30am	Morgan & Catherine Mulcahy RIP	
Saturday 6th December	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions John Joe Wall & Bill Gear RIP	
Sunday 7th December **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees**	Morning Prayer Seamus McKenna RIP People of Our Parish	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

PARISH HALL: The Parish Hall is open after the Sunday 11.00am Mass for teas and coffees. All welcome!

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

MORNING PRAYER: Please note Morning Prayer this week Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8.50am followed by Rosary – All welcome.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: For Christians in areas of conflict.
Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

MASS INTENTIONS: Mass intentions moved for unforeseen reasons (e.g. funerals) will be honoured on another day. Please provide contact details when requesting intentions and check the weekly newsletters.

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 telephone/email the Parish Office.

RIP: Please remember all who have died recently especially Rod Mason. Please keep Rod in your prayers and keep his wife Eileen and family in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad and difficult time.

FUNERAL DETAILS; ROD MASON RIP: Funeral Service **Friday 5th December at 1.00pm at St Francis' Church, Carteret Road, Luton LU2 9JZ** followed by a short committal at the Vale Cemetery.

THURSDAY CLUB: Please note there will be **no Thursday Club on Thursday 4th December.** Thursday Club **resumes again on Thursday 11th December.** Please contact anyone that you may feel would benefit from attending the Thursday Club and extend a warm welcome to come along to Sacred Heart's Parish Hall to have a chat and a cup of tea **every Thursday 10.00am-12 Noon**. All welcome! Thursday Club Christmas Dinner Thursday 18th December – members old and new welcome.

PARISHIONERS: There are many parishioners who are unwell at the moment, both at home and in hospital. The Church is not always notified. Please let the Parish Office know if you are aware of a parishioner who is unwell (name/address/telephone number or family contact details).

BOOKING OF SACRED HEART HALL: If you wish to book the Parish Hall for a function, please email: **hallbookings.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org** (Note this is a new email address.)
An acknowledgement email will be sent and then a discussion regarding availability and fees can commence with Wesley Weekes, Hall Manager.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: Our Lady Help of Christians on the **6TH December 10.00am-4.00pm and Sunday 7th December 2.00pm-4.00pm**. Saturday – hear the choirs. Sunday, have a picture with Santa. £2.00 entry – proceeds will support the work of Noah and the Luton Food Bank. See Poster.

BETHANY MASS: The next Bethany Mass will take place at Sacred Heart on **Sunday 14th December at 3.00pm**. Refreshments in the Hall afterwards. All welcome!

A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAROL SERVICE: Organised by Young @ Heart Café a Christmas Carol Service on **Saturday 6th December – 2.00pm-4.00pm at St John's Church** – car parking available. Free refreshments provided afterwards in St John's Parish Centre, Sundon Park Road, Luton LU3 3AL.

CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE: Monday 8th December from 7.00pm-8.00pm in the school hall. All are very welcome to join us. Please use the following link to book a free ticket:- https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cardinal-newman-carol-service-2025-tickets-1975790155542?aff=oddtdtcreator

VACANCY PARISH SECRETARY: Parish Secretary to provide administration support to the parish of St Margaret of Scotland, Luton. The role will be for 7 hours per week, ideally worked Tuesday and Friday. Flexible working pattern to be agreed.
Full information for the position and an application form can be found by visiting
https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs
All candidates should complete a Diocesan application form and email it to:
hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org
This vacancy remains open until the position is filled.

CSSA THEMATIC INSPECTION: SURVIVOR ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT: The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) has launched a public survey as part of its thematic inspection on survivor engagement and support. Victims and survivors of abuse—whether recent or historic—are invited to share their experiences of contact with dioceses and Religious Life Groups.
In Northampton, we continue to walk alongside survivors through initiatives such as the Healing Garden at Northampton Cathedral. Survivors are encouraged to participate in the survey, helping shape a safer Church for all. Visit:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2fT0OpJmB_Xy63KLBEXoG2tlVAm_9UYqKjMSFUOTc5TzlLTEdTWkUySjhaTlU0QURaOU05SC4u

CHRISTMAS TREE/CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Volunteers required to dress the Christmas tree and decorate the Church after the 9.30am Mass on Monday 15th December. Please speak to Maurice or Wesley.

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT: Monday 1st December, 7.30pm
Disrupted by Grace, week 2, Dr Avril Baigent will be joined by Michelle Moran who will continue exploring Jesus' more disreputable ancestors. Michelle will be unpacking the story of Rahab for us whilst exploring the presence of grace in our lives. Watch week 1's Advent Retreat and register here**: https://northamptondiocese.org/grace/**

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED HEART CHURCH: Thank you to all who attended Vespers and joined in the celebration in the Hall afterwards sharing the wonderful buffet provided by parishioners. A very enjoyable social event. Thank you to all who worked so hard in organising this event. Special thanks to Judy and Wesley for preparing the Hall and for serving refreshments. Finally, thank you to all who donated items and a special mention to Dermot and Kath Carleton for their generous contribution of fantastic prizes for the raffle. The raffle raised £253.20 – thank you to all who bought tickets and congratulations to all the winners – this money will go towards parish maintenance.

LUTON FOODBANK: Would like to thank Sacred Heart Parishioners for their continued support and generosity. The Foodbank has seen a big increase in the number of people needing their support. One way in which you can help is to join the Reverse Advent Calendar. Details in Foodbank Newsletter **https://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/luton-foodbank-newsletter-october-2025/**
Please view a copy of the Reverse Advent Calendar on the Noticeboard. If you wish to participate then please take a Reverse Advent Calendar home.

LITURGY OF THE WORD ZOOM SESSIONS FOR 2026: The God Who Speaks – Our Liturgy of the Word:
A series of online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. Led by the Liturgical Formation Team – **next session Wednesday 15th January 2026** – Ordinary Time up to Ash Wednesday.
Future sessions in 2026: Wednesday 11th February, Wednesday 8th April, Wednesday 8th July, Wednesday 9th September, Wednesday 11th November.
Each session runs from 7.30pm-8.30pm Cost: No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation. Please register in advance to secure a place by emailing
deaconpeter.collins@northamptondiocese.org
Full details on the Poster displayed on the Noticeboard.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 23rd November 2025 Loose cash £257.56; Envelopes £646.80; Total: £904.36 Thank you.
Many parishioners give faithfully through the offertory collection each week. Did you know that if you are a UK taxpayer, your gift could be worth 25% more at no extra cost to you? Through Gift Aid, a donation of £10 becomes £12.50 — and we can even reclaim up to four years of past donations. Signing up is simple, confidential, and makes a big difference to parish life. Find out more at:
https://northamptondiocese.org/gift-aid/

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2025: Mary Maybury would like to invite those on their own or unable to prepare a full Christmas Dinner to a 4 course Christmas Dinner at:
St John's RC Church Hall LU3 3AL on Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December, 1.30pm-5.00pm.
Cost: Donations only. Transport will be provided if there are enough volunteers who can provide transport.
Please contact Mary on 07866 989254 to book your place. (See Poster on the Noticeboard.)

DOUBLE YOUR LOVE FOR MARY'S MEALS THIS CHRISTMAS! Donations made to Mary's Meals will be **doubled** by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.1 million! This means your kindness will go even further and Mary's Meals can reach even more hungry children with a life-changing school meal. Millions of children are still waiting for Mary's Meals, unable to go to school because of poverty and hunger. Those that do attend are often too hungry to learn. With your support, more and more children will wake each morning knowing they will eat a good meal today – and have hope for a brighter tomorrow. It costs just £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. Double The Love, a donation of **£19.15** will feed **two children**. Together, through Double The Love, we can turn hunger into hope for many more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals. Visit:
https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns/double-the-love

SUPPORTING THE JUBILEE FOR PRISONERS – A CALL TO ACTION: In the lead-up to the Jubilee for Prisoners on 14th December, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is delighted to share a new Call to Action Guide, developed in response to last year's Bishops' Conference publication *Remember Me*, which explores the realities of the criminal justice system in the UK. Documents can be found here **https://www.csan.org.uk/news/responding-to-remember-me-a-call-to-prayer-reflection-and-action/** The *Remember Me* Call to Action guide is designed to empower parishes and individuals to discern practical ways to support people with convictions and the wider communities affected by the criminal justice system. It includes a variety of practical ideas and suggestions to help each parish respond to this important call to accompany and support those in need.

VACANCY – EXAM INVIGILATOR - CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Exam Invigilators are required to supplement an experienced and committed team of public examination invigilators. This team invigilate public examinations at GCSE and GCE (Advanced) Level and are required to be available primarily during May and June but also at other examination periods throughout the year. Working hours are flexible. Morning sessions begin at 08:30am and afternoon sessions may not end until 5.00pm. For more information and to apply, please see our My New Term webpage **https://mynewterm.com/jobs/142310/EDV-2025-CNCSSSC-91753**

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: As from January 2026 we would like a Rota to be set up with volunteers to make/serve teas/coffees after the Sunday 11.00am Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to gather after Sunday Mass but the facility is not being utilised as it should be. Without more volunteers we cannot continue to offer this service. So please email the Parish or speak to Wes if you are able to help out on a regular basis and are happy to have your name put forward to be added on a Rota. **We need more volunteers!**

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026: If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 you must apply for a school place **by 15th January 2026. You can apply online at luton.gov.uk/school admissions** (See Poster on the Noticeboard.)
To get an information pack or to ask for further information and advice please contact: Admissions Team, Children, Families and Education Directorate, Luton Council, Town Hall, George Street, Luton LU1 2BQ. Telephone: 01582 548016 or email: **admissions@luton.gov.uk**

LUX: 13th -15th February 2026, Kings Park Centre, Northampton
Who: Ages 11-18 (school years 7-13) How much? £110
If you've not heard about it before, LUX is our diocesan residential weekend for teens that happens in February every year. It's for those in school years 7 – 13 and is a weekend packed with activity. Every year we explore a theme through workshops, dramas, music, worship, Mass, prayer times, games, inputs, and time with friends. This year's theme is Belong.
Visit nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/ or email NYMO@northamptondiocese.com to find out more.

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Julia Walsh 1969; John Nugent 1974; Joseph Early 2014; Joseph Gilheaney 1987;
Marcella Franklin 1965; Francis McCrudden 1983; Stephan Curtis 1996; Sarah Garlick 1998;
Mary-Ann Walsh 1974; Mary O'Donoghue 1983; Eric Fowler 1987; Mary Cassidy 1991;
Maggie Hayes 2002; Mary (Bridget) Hope 2013; Louise Taylor 1969; Charlotte Mary Byrne 2011;
Thomas Patrick Michael Rogan; James Connolly 1980; Stanislawa Curtis 2000;
Henry (Harry) Sheridan 2008; Sinead Patricia Garahee-Sugrue 2018; James Bennett 1988;
Maurice Croke 1993; John Joseph Comerford 2013; Mary Robinson 1962; Margaret Burton 1982;
Carmella Borcellino 2003; Bridget Mulligan 2009; Bridget Gallagher 2017✠ **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen**

PARISH REGISTRATION: To complete your parish registration, please use the QR code on the right, or go to **www.caspar.church/me?ID=56040**, or contact the parish office for assistance.

If you do not have an email address then please pick up a form in the Foyer to give your authority for the Parish Office to register you. Please remember to include the following information on the back of the form: Name, Address, Postcode, Telephone Number (if applicable)