Heart to Heart

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

Year C - Sunday 9th March 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.**

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

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Safeguarding: safeguarding.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
Free Redundancy Coaching Info: www.vitaeopus.co.uk

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

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 8th March	**10.00am** **12 Noon** 5.45pm 6.00pm - 6.20pm 6.30pm	Reconciliation – **First Holy Communion Group A** Reconciliation **– First Holy Communion Group B** Evening Prayer Confessions Perry Family (Foundation Mass)	
Sunday 9th March	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Lisa Doran RIP (Anniversary)	**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
Monday 10th March	9.30am	Peter English RIP	
Tuesday 11th March	9.30am	Private Intention **Prayer Group**	
Wednesday 12th March	9.30am	Santana Dias (Thanksgiving)	
Thursday 13th March	**NO MASS** **11.00am** **10.00am-12 Noon**	**REQUIEM: PETER ENGLISH** **Thursday Club**	
Friday 14th March	9.30am **7.00pm**	Filomena Paixao RIP & Vincente Gamba RIP **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**	
Saturday 15th March	5.45pm 6.00pm - 6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Peter English RIP	
Sunday 16th March	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **3.00pm**	Morning Prayer Mary & John Walsh RIP People of Our Parish **Bethany Group Mass**	**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

PARISH HALL: Teas and coffees available after Sunday 11.00am Mass. All are welcome!

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.

RIP: Please remember all who have died recently especially Peter English and Angela Joseph. Please keep Peter, Angela, their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

FUNERAL DETAILS:
Peter English RIP, Requiem, **Thursday 13th March, 11.00am** at Sacred Heart (Repatriation to Ireland)
Angela Joseph RIP, Requiem, **Thursday 20th March, 10.30am** at St Joseph's Church, Luton.

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. **All Extraordinary Ministers taking Communion to the sick speak to Deacon Jim before or after Mass please.**

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

POPE FRANCIS: Please continue to pray for Pope Francis, entrusting him to the healing mercy of our loving Father.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH: For families in crisis
Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Throughout Lent there will be Stations of the Cross **every Friday at 7.00pm** led by Deacon Jim. All welcome to attend.

SACRAMENTS: Please continue to remember in your prayers our young parishioners who are preparing for First Holy Communion and those preparing for Confirmation.

PARISH MAINTENANCE: Financial support to maintain our Church is desperately required to keep our Church, property and equipment in good condition, safe and presentable. The sound system is a major concern at the moment so any donations would be gratefully received to help upgrade the system. Please consider to gift aid your donations. Ideas to raise money within the Parish? Please email the Parish Office.

THURSDAY CLUB: 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!

SAFEGUARDING: Bishop David Oakley is available to meet anyone affected by abuse via the safeguarding office 01604 723514 or by email **safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org**

BETHANY GROUP MASS: The next Bethany Group Mass will take place at Sacred Heart next weekend at 3.00pm. New families welcome. Refreshments in the Hall after Mass.

VOLUNTEERS: We need more volunteers! If you can spare some time and are happy to volunteer to help this Parish flourish – please do so. Please speak to Fr Allan after Mass or email the Parish Office. There are so many opportunities (reading, cleaning, DIY, grounds/gardening, Repository, Hall – teas/coffees etc.) in which you can offer to help within the Parish - a few minutes or even an hour, all help is appreciated. **Without volunteers our future looks bleak!**

NOAH BINS: At Sacred Heart this weekend 8th/9th March. Donations of good quality, clean pre-loved clothes, bric-a-brac, books and small items of furniture will be gratefully accepted.

THE LENT ENCOUNTER 2025: This Lent we're taking the book of Exodus as our guide on a journey through the Red Sea and into the wilderness. Sign up to join The Lent Encounter**,** **https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-lent-encounter?source_code=NEW25013&utm** Your free daily devotionals delivered to your inbox will help you to read your Bible every day and make space for Jesus to shape your heart and life this Lent.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT FOR 2025: Every child coming out of a Catholic school should have a good grounding and knowledge of the Scriptures. As a Parish our Lenten Project will raise money for Bibles for Sacred Heart Primary School.

FAMILY LENT ACTIVITY PACK: Education News has some lovely activities for families/children please visit: **https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks**

SEAN O'RIADA GAELIC SUNG MASS: Monday 17th March. Our Lady Help of Christians, Castle St, Luton. 9.30am. Featuring the Luton Irish Forum Choir.

KHAYAAL THEATRE: Sufi Tales, at The Quaker Meeting House, 28 Crawley Green Road, Luton LU2 0QX on Saturday 5th April at 3.00pm. Cost £7 per person, on the door, with contributions of food most welcome. The afternoon will begin with performances of the tales. There will be a shared food break at 4.00pm. Luqman Ali, Director, will speak about the meaning of the stories in terms of Sufi beliefs and values, leading to a discussion about possible parallels with other faiths, with an emphasis on social and environmental justice. A short further performance will provide a finale. All welcome.

LUTON FOODBANK: Help all who need food assistance and support with problems during a crisis. This year for the first time they have developed a Lent Challenge, which suggests parishioners might like to donate food or funds to support those in need in Luton. See Poster on Noticeboard to raise awareness of this campaign. It is a relatively simple process:
- Donate £1 or a non-perishable food item each day of lent (40 days)
- Encourage friends and family to join! - Bring donations to the church for collection

SVP AND CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE: The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and CAFOD are collaborating to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The program will run from 22nd to 27th June in London. Candidates must have completed their first or second year at university and have a passion for social justice. Applications close on 20th April. For any queries, please contact **KeziaH@svp.org.uk.** More details and the application form can be found here:
https://svp1.formstack.com/forms/work_experience_application_form_2025WEEKLY PLANNED GIVING

MESSAGE FROM CAFOD: Last week the UK government announced big cuts to spending on overseas aid. The United States and a number of European governments have done similar in recent weeks. Sadly, CAFOD has heard from church partners and organisations in Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Central America about the impact of all this. Put simply, it will mean that more families are unable to grow food because of the climate crisis, children will not be able to go to school, those fleeing conflict cannot be sheltered, and more people will go untreated and unvaccinated for curable diseases. They warn more people will die and many more will lose their livelihoods. CAFOD works where people suffer the most across the globe – Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan, among them – and they need support now more than ever. The compassion and generosity of the Catholic community across England and Wales offers precious light in difficult times.

This year is a Jubilee Year for our Church, a time of hope, journeying together, and resetting injustices, not a time to be turning our backs on those in need. This Lent, by giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day collection, your parishioners ensure that we can continue to work with our international Caritas family to help people experiencing the worst impacts of poverty, conflict and climate change. Please do all you can to support CAFOD this Lent. In the face of such challenges, this has never been more vital. Thank you for your prayers and for everything you do to support our sisters and brothers. (Family Fast Day – Friday 14th March; Second Collections: 15th/16th March)

ENVELOPES 2025/26: Planned Giving Envelopes will be distributed before and after each Mass on: Weekend of Sunday 9th March 2025; Weekend of Sunday 16th March 2025;
Weekend of Sunday 23rd March 2025; Weekend of Sunday 30th March 2025.
The envelopes should not be used before the weekend of 6th April 2025. Please see poster on the Noticeboard for further information or contact Wesley Weekes, Parish Gift Aid Co-ordinator (01582 738569).

CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK (CSAN): Is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap and the current economic climate on Catholic families in England and Wales. Please share your experience by completing the survey, which can be accessed at **csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey** The survey will close on 25th March.

LUTON COVID MEMORIAL SERVICE: Sunday 6th April, 3.00pm at Newland Church, Crawley Green Road, LU2 9TE. Share stories of our loved ones lost to Covid, over tea and cake.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Week ending **2nd March 2025** Loose cash £414.63; Envelopes £663.19; Total £1077.82 Thank you. If you Gift Aid donations, we can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you.

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Elizabeth Mary Brogan 2014; John Stanton 1969; Baby Kevin Hynes 1975; Patrick Nolan 1990; Charles Drein 2001; Titus Abernethy 2006; Kathleen West 2002; Peter Albert McGarry 2008; Carmel Harte 2019; Juana Wyett 2021; Robert McDermott 1974; Alice Jepp 1978; Joseph Keegan 2003; John James Doran 2015; Nelson Walter Gallyot 2016; Pauline Mooney 1995; Baby Rebecca Mooney 1995; Lisa Marie Nora Doran 2013; Gerard Crossin 2012; Patrick Cyril Carroll 1973; James Birtwistle 1991; James McCaffrey 1998; Joseph Harbud 2000; Augustine Hynes 2007; Maralaine Cooper 2010; Michael (Mick) McCafferty 2018; Richard Connell 1993; Richard McCleod 2014; Baby Caroline Murphy 1965; Joseph Brewster 1972; Bridget Leonard 1981; Gerard Shanahan 1998; Rolande Hattock Ayen 2024; Denis Harte 2000✠ **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.